FLASH GORDON

Daily Series I, Story 002

"Freeland"

February 24, 1941 to August 21, 1941

by Austin Briggs

"ADMIRAL MOGOR TRIED TO KILL YOU!" CAPTAIN SUNOL SAYS, "HE'S IN THE BRIG."
2-24
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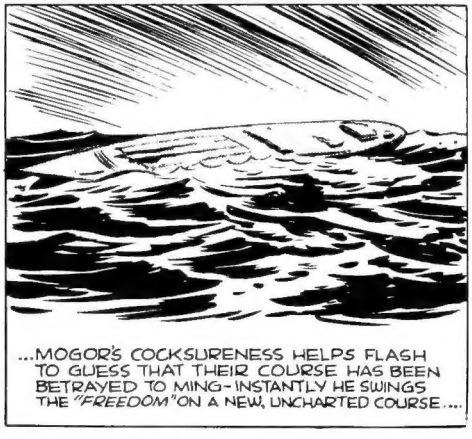
"CAPTAIN SUNOL WANTS TO HANG YOU," FLASH TELLS MOGOR, "BUT WE'LL GIVE YOU A FAIR TRIAL WHEN WE REACH FREELAND." MOGOR SNARLS, "OUR NAVY WILL HANG YOU FIRST!"


...MOGOR'S COCKSURENESS HELPS FLASH TO GUESS THAT THEIR COURSE HAS BEEN BETRAYED TO MING - INSTANTLY HE SWINGS THE "FREEDOM" ON A NEW, UNCHARTED COURSE....

FLASH AND SUNOL STEER THROUGH THE STORM TOWARD AN UNKNOWN SHORE - "WHEREVER WE LAND, WE'LL CALL IT 'FREELAND,'" FLASH SAYS.
2-25

FLASH AND DALE VISIT THE GALLANT VICTIMS OF STORM AND WARFARE.
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DALE FROWNS, AS FLASH PAUSES BESIDE LITA....AND FIERRO, TOO, TRIES TO HIDE HIS JEALOUSY.

FIERRO HAS BEEN TRYING TO WIN LITA- BUT SHE HAS EYES ONLY FOR FLASH.
"YOU'LL COME BACK SOON?" SHE PLEADS

" YOU MUST BE MUCH BETTER, DEAR," DALE SAYS, TOO SWEETLY. "YOU'RE CERTAINLY TAKING AN INTEREST IN.... THINGS--"

A SUDDEN CRY OF "LAND AHEAD!" INTERRUPTS THEM.... AND BRINGS EVERYONE ON DECK FOR THE FIRST GLIMPSE OF "FREELAND!"
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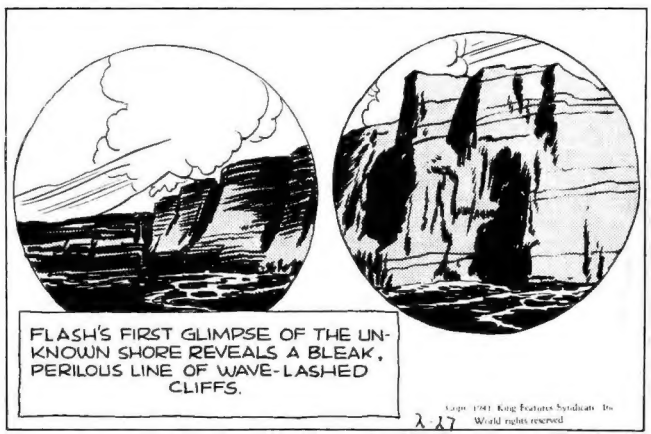
FLASH AND DALE STARE EAGERLY AT THE LAND WHERE THEY HOPE TO FIND PEACE AND FREEDOM!


FLASH'S FIRST GLIMPSE OF THE UN- KNOWN SHORE REVEALS A BLEAK, PERILOUS LINE OF WAVE-LASHED CLIFFS.
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"I'LL TRY TO SPOT A SAFE HARBOR," HE SAYS, AS HE CLIMBS ABOARD HIS STORM- BATTERED ROCKET.

FLASH'S ROCKET LURCHES INTO THE STORMY AIR, IN SEARCH OF A LANDING-PLACE FOR THE LONG-SUFFERING SHIP
AT LAST HE SPIES A WINDING PASSAGE BETWEEN REEFS AND CLIFFS.
2-28
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--AND FROM HIS AERIAL OBSERVATION POST, HE PILOTS THE "FREEDOM" TO THE UNKNOWN HARBOR.
FLASH LANDS HIS ROCKET ON DECK, AND IN A SHIP'S LAUNCH, LEADS THE FIRST PARTY TO SET FOOT ON "FREELAND"--
3-1
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----WHERE THEY LAND ON A ROCK-AS FLASH STEPS ASHORE, HE ANNOUNCES: "I CHRISTEN THIS COUNTRY 'FREELAND'... AND DEDICATE IT TO LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS."
HIDDEN BEHIND DISTANT ROCKS, A BAND OF NATIVES WATCH THEM WITH GRIM INTEREST.

FLASH AND DALE HAVE A BRIEF MOMENT OF RE-UNION OVER THEIR SAFE LANDING ON THE SHORE OF "FREELAND"

BUT THERE ARE A THOUSAND THINGS TO DO IN FOUNDING A NEW CITY- FLASH STARTS BUILDING A DOCK AND SHELTERS----
3-3
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--AND SETS OUT WITH FIERRO TO SURVEY THIS UN-KNOWN LAND-- UNAWARE THAT IT ALREADY HAS INHABITANTS WATCHING FROM HIDING-PLACES!

PRINCESS ADORA HIDES, AS SHE WATCHES THE STRANGERS EXPLORE HER NATIVE LAND
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FLASH SCOUTING THIS NEW STRANGE COUNTRY, SPOTS A LURKING ANIMAL
3-4

THE HUNTING PARTY PAUSES TO BROIL A STEAK--STILL UNAWARE THAT THEY ARE BEING SPIED ON BY SUSPICIOUS EYES--

ONE OF THE SPYING NATIVES CARELESSLY EXPOSES HIMSELF- FIERRO, ALWAYS TOO HASTY, SNAPS A RAY BOLT AT WHAT HE THINKS IS A WILD ANIMAL
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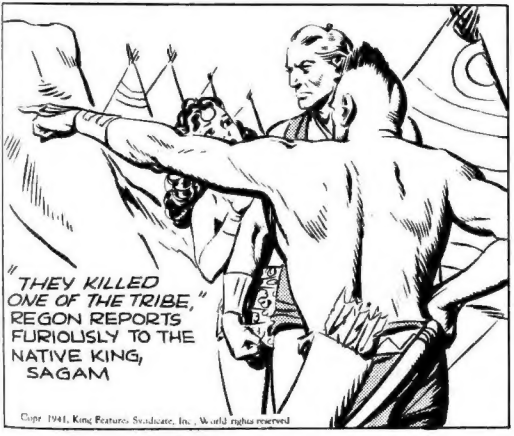
AS HIS COMRADE FALLS, YOUNG REGON WHIPS AN ARROW AT THE INTRUDERS- THEN HURRIES HIS BELOVED PRINCESS, ADORA, AWAY TO SAFETY
3-5

"IT'S A WHITE INDIAN!" FLASH EXCLAIMS. "YOU'VE SPOILED EVERYTHING, FIERRO I WANTED TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH ANYONE WHO LIVES HERE!"


"THEY KILLED ONE OF THE TRIBE," REGON REPORTS FURIOUSLY TO THE NATIVE KING, SAGAM
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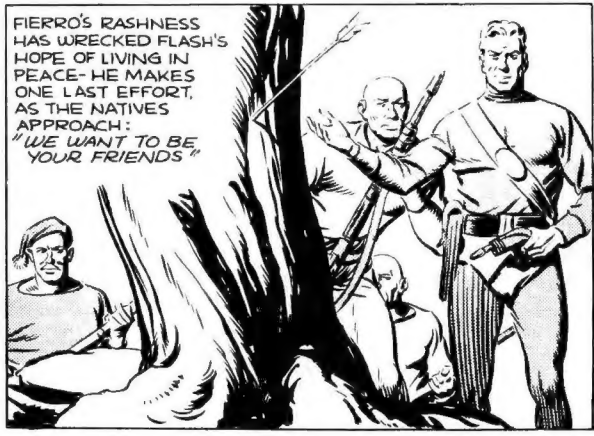
"WE MUST PUNISH THEM- CALL OUT THE WARRIORS!" SAGAM ORDERS
PRINCESS ADORA PLEADS, "DON'T KILL THE YELLOW-HAIRED MAN, FATHER--"
3-6


FIERRO'S RASHNESS HAS WRECKED FLASH'S HOPE OF LIVING IN PEACE- HE MAKES ONE LAST EFFORT, AS THE NATIVES APPROACH: "WE WANT TO BE YOUR FRIENDS"

SEEKING REVENGE FOR THE ACCIDENTAL KILLING OF ONE WARRIOR, THE NATIVES FURIOUSLY ATTACK FLASH AND HIS LITTLE BAND

A BOOMERANG-LIKE WAR-AXE CURVES TO CLEAVE FIERRO'S THICK SKULL
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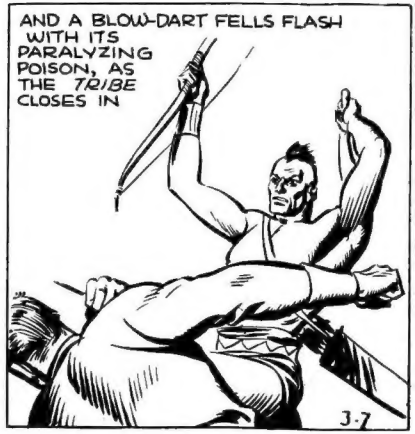
AND A BLOW-DART FELLS FLASH WITH ITS PARALYZING POISON, AS THE TRIBE CLOSES IN
3-7

KING SAGAM STOPS THE MADDENED REGON FROM KILLING THE CAPTIVES "THEY MUST BE TRIED BY THE TRIBE FOR MURDER."

ADORA RISKS HER OWN LIFE TO SUCK THE PARALYZING POISON FROM FLASH'S WOUND
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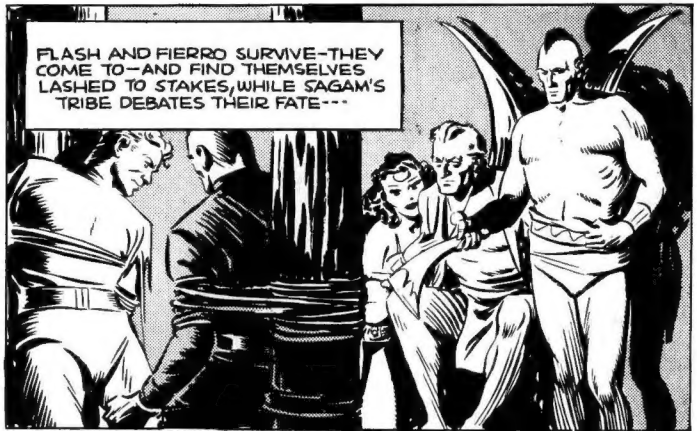
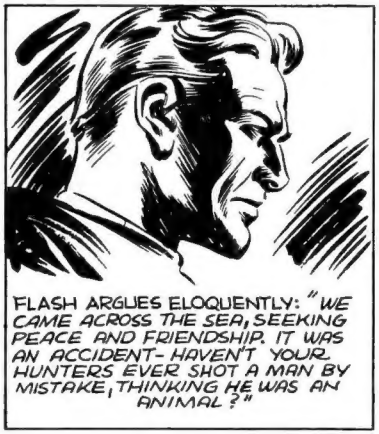
3-8


FLASH AND FIERRO SURVIVE—THEY COME TO—AND FIND THEMSELVES LASHED TO STAKES, WHILE SAGAM'S TRIBE DEBATES THEIR FATE---

REGON ACCUSES THE CAPTIVES OF MURDER. "THESE STRANGERS, INTRUDERS IN OUR LAND, KILLED ONE OF OUR TRIBE WITH THEIR MAGIC FIRE-STICKS!"


FLASH ARGUES ELOQUENTLY: "WE CAME ACROSS THE SEA, SEEKING PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP. IT WAS AN ACCIDENT- HAVEN'T YOUR HUNTERS EVER SHOT A MAN BY MISTAKE, THINKING HE WAS AN ANIMAL?"

BY NATIVE LAW, KING SAGAM LETS THE TRIBE VOTE ON THE CAPTIVES' FATE.
ALL BUT PRINCESS ADORA CRY: "BURN THEM AT THE STAKE!"
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3-10

FLASH AND FIERRO STRAIN VAINLY AT THEIR RAWHIDE BONDS, AS THE TRIBE PREPARES TO BURN THEM AT THE STAKE
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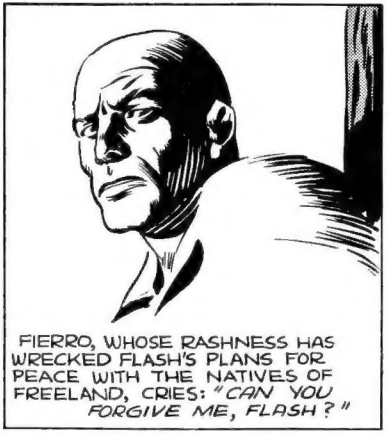
FIERRO, WHOSE RASHNESS HAS WRECKED FLASH'S PLANS FOR PEACE WITH THE NATIVES OF FREELAND, CRIES: "CAN YOU FORGIVE ME, FLASH?"

3-11
FLASH ANSWERS WITH WRY HUMOR: "WE ALL MAKE MISTAKES, FIERRO-I GUESS YOU AND I WON'T MAKE MANY MORE!"

FLASH'S THOUGHTS ARE OF DALE, BIDDING HER A SILENT FAREWELL, AS REGON LEADS THE VENGEFUL NATIVES IN BURNING THE CAPTIVES AT THE STAKE

BUT PRINCESS ADORA, HEEDLESS BOTH OF THE FIRE AND HER TRIBE'S LAW, DARTS FORWARD TO KICK THE BLAZING WOOD AWAY FROM FLASH····
3-12
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DEFYING HER FATHER AND HER TRIBE IN HER SWIFT LOVE FOR THE YELLOW-HAIRED STRANGER, PRINCESS ADORA SAVES FLASH FROM BEING BURNED AT THE STAKE

THE QUICK-WITTED GIRL TURNS AND KISSES FLASH - BY NATIVE LAW, HE IS NOW HER FIANCÉ, AND ONE OF THE TRIBE!
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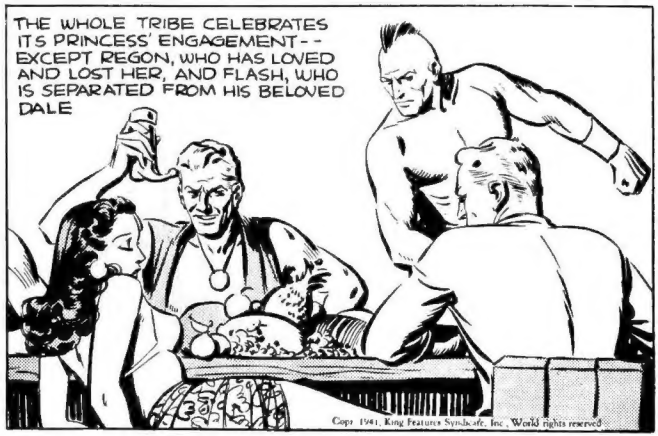
3-13

"QUICK, PRINCESS--SAVE MY FRIEND, FIERRO, TOO!" FLASH URGES- ADORA'S FATHER GESTURES, AND RELUCTANT WARRIORS OBEY AND RESCUE FIERRO

FLASH LEARNS HE'S JUMPED FROM THE "FIRE INTO THE FRYING-PAN" WHEN ADORA SAYS SLYLY, "I DIDN'T EVEN LEARN YOUR NAME BEFORE I PROMISED TO MARRY YOU BY MY KISS"

FLASH HESITATES--BUT HE CAN'T SHAME THE GIRL WHO HAS SAVED HIS LIFE AND FIERRO'S, BY PUBLICLY REFUSING HER
3-14


THE WHOLE TRIBE CELEBRATES ITS PRINCESS' ENGAGEMENT-- EXCEPT REGON, WHO HAS LOVED AND LOST HER, AND FLASH, WHO IS SEPARATED FROM HIS BELOVED DALE
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IN THE DISTANT CAMP, DALE TELLS ZARKOV, "FLASH IS OVERDUE—LET'S SEARCH FOR HIM!"

BUT DALE DOESN'T GUESS WHAT SORT OF DANGER FLASH IS FACING- "GOODBYE UNTIL TOMORROW," PRINCESS ADORA IS SAYING TENDERLY

IN HIS TENT FLASH TELLS FIERRO: "WE WANT TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH THESE PEOPLE-- BUT I CAN'T MARRY THAT GIRL!"

SUDDENLY REGON BURTS IN, RAGING: "YOU STOLE MY ADORA-- I CHALLENGE YOU TO A DUEL TO THE DEATH!"
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3-15

FLASH, SEEKING PEACE WITH THE TRIBE, TELLS WARRIOR REGON: "I HAVE NO QUARREL WITH YOU!"

MADDENED BY JEALOUSY OF ADORA, REGON RASHLY SLAPS FLASH, SHOUTING: "I CHALLENGE YOU TO A DUEL-- --UNLESS YOU'RE AFRAID!"
3-17

AS PRINCESS ADORA WATCHES ADMIRINGLY, FLASH KNOCKS OUT THE HOT-HEADED YOUTH WITH ONE BLOW—"THROW HIM IN THE CREEK TO COOL HIM OFF," FLASH CRIES
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THE LOVE-SICK ADORA HIDES, AS FLASH SEEKS THE HALL OF HER FATHER, KING SAGAM
3-18

"MY PEOPLE WANT TO LIVE IN PEACE WITH YOUR PEOPLE IN THIS FREELAND," FLASH SAYS, "BUT I CANNOT MARRY ADORA-- --I LOVE ANOTHER--- --DALE ARDEN!"

SAGAM PROMISES, "WE'LL SETTLE THIS TOMORROW"—THEY DO NOT SEE ADORA, SOBBING SILENTLY

"FLASH DOESN'T LOVE ME-WHAT CAN I DO?" SOBS ADORA
KING SAGAM SAYS STERNLY: "YOU SAVED HIS LIFE, DAUGHTER- WE'LL MAKE HIM MARRY YOU!"
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ALL NIGHT THE MEDICINE-MAN OF THE TRIBE BREWS A STRANGE POTION FOR HIS KING-"DROWN HIS MEMORY WITH THIS HERB!"

"MY SON, YOU MAY CHOOSE WHETHER OR NOT TO MARRY ADORA," SAYS WILY KING SAGAM, OFFERING FLASH THE DRUGGED DRINK—" FIRST, EMPTY THE CUP OF FRIENDSHIP!"
3-19

FLASH UNSUSPECTINGLY DRAINS THE DRINK BREWED FROM THE NATIVE " HERB OF FORGETFULNESS "

THROUGH A HAZE, FLASH SAYS DREAMILY: "YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL ---WHO ARE YOU-?"
AND THE PRINCESS MURMURS HAPPILY, "I AM ADORA--YOUR PROMISED BRIDE!"

QUICKLY, KING SAGAM ASSEMBLES THE TRIBE: "TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE WEDDING OF FLASH AND PRINCESS ADORA-- AND THE FRIENDSHIP OF OUR TWO NATIONS!"
3-20
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WHILE FLASH, CRAFTILY DRUGGED TO FORGETFULNESS, CELEBRATES HIS ENGAGEMENT TO PRINCESS ADORA ~~~

---DALE, HALF-MAD WITH ANXIETY OVER HIS FAILURE TO RETURN, LEADS A PARTY IN SEARCH OF FLASH —

TO THEIR HORROR, THEY DISCOVER THE BATTLE-GROUND WHERE THE NATIVE TRIBE ATTACKED FLASH'S LITTLE BAND
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3-21

WHILE DALE SEARCHES DESPERATELY FOR FLASH'S BODY OR HIS TRAIL ---
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--FLASH'S ENGAGEMENT PARTY IS INTERRUPTED BY THE WARRIOR REGON: "STOP! I LOVE ADORA! YOU MUST FIGHT ME TO THE DEATH BEFORE YOU CAN HAVE HER!"

FLASH IS EAGER TO FACE REGON--KING SAGAM ANNOUNCES: "A DUEL OF FOREST-WAR--- ----TO THE DEATH!"
3-22

DRUGGED TO FORGETFULNESS OF DALE AND THE PAST, FLASH IS FASCINATED BY THE NATIVE PRINCESS, ADORA.
"YOU MUST WIN FOR ME, MY HERO!"

KING SAGAM EXPLAINS THE "FOREST WAR DUEL" TO FLASH "YOU AND REGON START FROM TWO DISTANT POINTS - ANYTHING GOES - KILL OR BE KILLED!"

ARMED ONLY WITH A WAR-AXE, FLASH AND ADORA'S SUITOR, REGON, ARE ESCORTED INTO THE FOREST, WHICH IS TO BE THEIR BATTLE-GROUND
3.24
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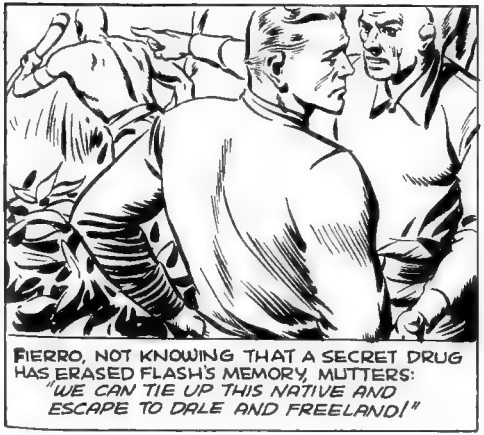
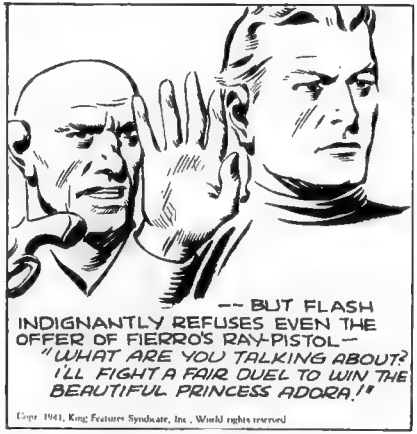

FIERRO, NOT KNOWING THAT A SECRET DRUG HAS ERASED FLASH'S MEMORY, MUTTERS:
"WE CAN TIE UP THIS NATIVE AND ESCAPE TO DALE AND FREELAND!"


-- BUT FLASH INDIGNANTLY REFUSES EVEN THE OFFER OF FIERRO'S RAY-PISTOL—
"WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I'LL FIGHT A FAIR DUEL TO WIN THE BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS ADORA!"
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THE NATIVE'S TRUMPET BLAST IS ECHOED BY REGON, FAR AWAY IN THE WOODS AND FLASH IS LEFT ALONE TO FIGHT HIS FOREST-TRAINED ENEMY—
3.25

WHILE DALE AND ZARKOV TRY TO FOLLOW THE HIDDEN TRAIL OF THE NATIVES WHO CAPTURED FLASH---

--AND PRINCESS ADORA NERVOUSLY DEMANDS-"FATHER, DO YOU REALLY THINK FLASH CAN WIN THIS TERRIBLE DUEL FOR MY HAND?"

--THE FOREST-WISE WARRIOR, REGON, CIRCLES AND THEN HIDES, WAITING FOR FLASH TO BETRAY HIMSELF
3 26

FROM AMBUSH, REGON HURLS HIS BOOMERANG-LIKE WAR-AXE WHEN HE SPOTS FLASH ~~~

FLASH'S FIRST WARNING IS WHEN HIS UNFAMILIAR WEAPON IS KNOCKED FROM HIS HAND~~TO FALL, BY CRUEL ILL-FORTUNE, INTO A MARSHY POOL!

REGON RUNS TO SECURE HIS BOOMERANG WEAPON WHICH HE USES SO DANGEROUSLY WELL-RECKLESSLY FLASH RACES UNARMED TO THE ATTACK-
3.27

DESPERATELY REGON TUGS AT HIS WAR-AXE WHILE FLASH CHARGES AT HIM, BARE-HANDED

IN MAD HASTE REGON SLASHES AT FLASH....AND HITS HIS ARM A DANGEROUS, PARALYZING BLOW
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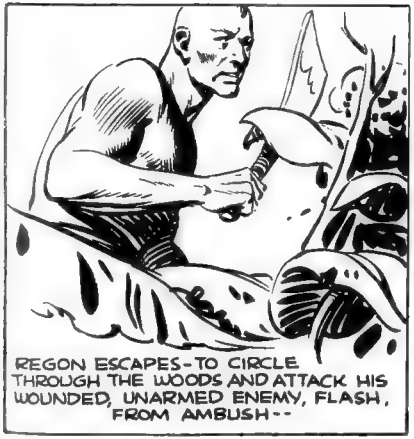
WITH ONE HAND FLASH GRABS AT REGON--AND THE WARRIOR'S NERVE BREAKS. HE RUNS, PLANNING TO ATTACK FLASH FROM A SAFE DISTANCE!
3.28


REGON ESCAPES-TO CIRCLE THROUGH THE WOODS AND ATTACK HIS WOUNDED, UNARMED ENEMY, FLASH, FROM AMBUSH--

HASTILY FLASH FISHES IN THE MARSH FOR HIS LOST WAR-AXE, BUT IN VAIN!
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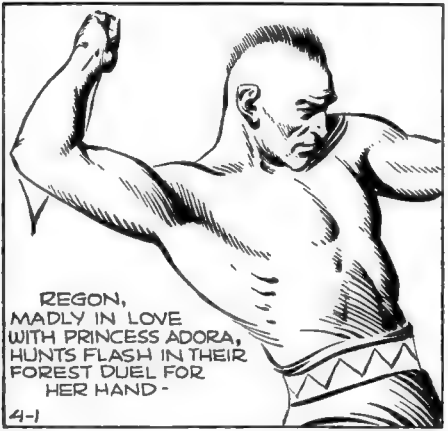
AT THE SOUND OF APPROACHING FEET, FLASH HIDES-DALE AND ZARKOV, LOST, COME CLOSE--- BUT FLASH'S DRUGGED MEMORY DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THEM
3.29

FLASH, HIS MEMORY WIPED OUT BY NATIVE HERBS, LETS DALE AND ZARKOV PASS BY IN THEIR VAIN SEARCH FOR HIM-HE'S PUZZLED TO HEAR DALE SAY: "IS THERE ANY HOPE THAT FLASH IS STILL ALIVE?"

UNARMED, HE HURRIES TO MAKE WEAPONS FROM A SPRINGY SAPLING, A WIRY VINE AND SHARPENED REEDS----

---WHILE THE WARRIOR REGON STALKS HIM IN THEIR DEADLY DUEL!
3-31


REGON, MADLY IN LOVE WITH PRINCESS ADORA, HUNTS FLASH IN THEIR FOREST DUEL FOR HER HAND-
4-1

A SIXTH SENSE WARNS FLASH OF INSTANT DANGER

FLASH WHIRLS WITH HIS BARELY COMPLETED BOW AND ARROW--TO PIN HIS ENEMY'S HAND TO A TREE!

HELPLESSLY, REGON WAITS FOR FLASH TO KILL HIM, AS HE HAD MEANT TO KILL FLASH, BY THE NATIVE LAWS OF THE DUEL TO THE DEATH!

BUT FLASH SPARES THE WARRIOR WHOSE ONLY CRIME WAS TO LOVE PRINCESS ADORA." YOU'RE A GALLANT FOE, FLASH!"

KING SAGAM IS AMAZED, AS FLASH BRINGS HIS RIVAL INTO CAMP, ALIVE, BUT A CAPTIVE - "NOW, PRINCESS," FLASH SAYS PROUDLY, "NO ONE CAN PREVENT OUR MARRIAGE!"
4-2

FLASH TELLS THE KING OF THE TRIBE ABOUT SEEING A PARTY OF STRANGERS - "WE MUST CAPTURE OR KILL THEM," SAGAM CRIES -

FLASH INSTANTLY LEADS THE WARRIORS IN SEARCH OF THE IN- TRUDERS
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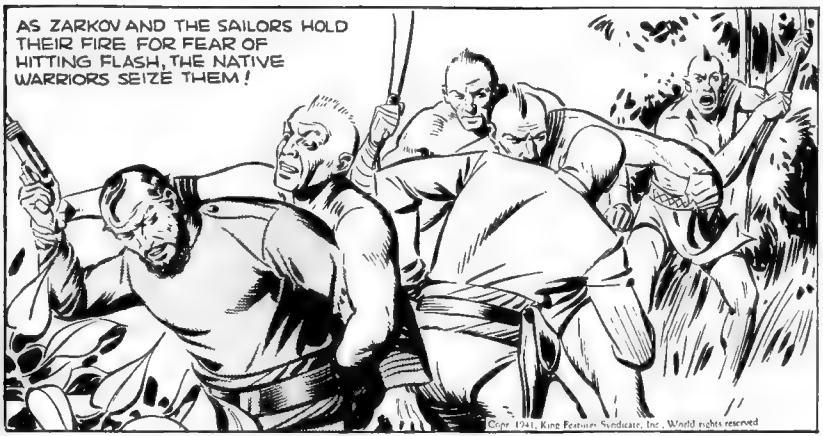
CORNERED IN THE FOREST, ZARKOV IS ABOUT TO BLAST THE ATTACKERS WITH HIS RAY-RIFLE, WHEN DALE CRIES: "DON'T SHOOT— --IT'S FLASH!
4-3


AS ZARKOV AND THE SAILORS HOLD THEIR FIRE FOR FEAR OF HITTING FLASH, THE NATIVE WARRIORS SEIZE THEM!
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DALE FLINGS HERSELF AT FLASH, CRYING, "OH, DEAREST--YOU'RE STILL ALIVE!" BUT FLASH, HIS MEMORY DRUGGED, ASKS, "WHO ARE YOU, GIRL?"

DALE SHRINKS BACK, TERRIBLY HURT, BUT ZARKOV WHISPERS, "MAYBE HE'S PRETENDING NOT TO KNOW US, TO TRICK THE SAVAGES!"
4-4

FLASH PROUDLY RETURNS TO THE TRIBE'S CAMP: "HERE, KING SAGAM, ARE CAPTIVES, AS A WEDDING PRESENT TO MY DEAR PRINCESS ADORA!"
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"FLASH, HOW CAN YOU DO THIS TO ME?" DALE CRIES TRAGICALLY
4-5

FLASH, HONESTLY PUZZLED, SAYS, "ADORA, THAT PRETTY GIRL CAPTIVE THINKS SHE KNOWS ME"-- AND ADORA KNOWS SHE MUST SOMEHOW END THIS THREAT TO HER MARRIAGE.

ADORA AND KING SAGAM ARE AFRAID THE CAPTIVES WILL AWAKEN FLASH'S DRUGGED MEMORY. "WE MUST SEND THEM AWAY, FATHER!"
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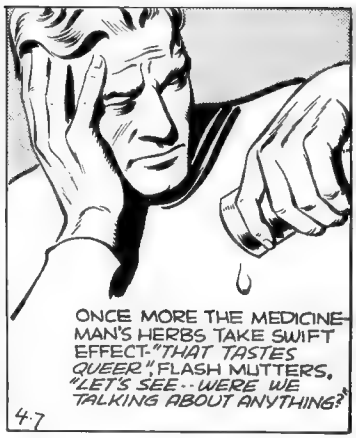
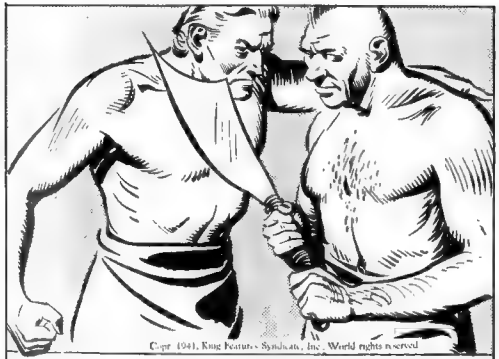

ONCE MORE THE MEDICINE-MAN'S HERBS TAKE SWIFT EFFECT. "THAT TASTES QUEER", FLASH MUTTERS, "LET'S SEE--WERE WE TALKING ABOUT ANYTHING?"
4-7



SAGAM ORDERS THE CAPTIVES EXECUTED--FEARING THEY'LL ROUSE FLASH'S DRUGGED MEMORY

DALE CRIES, "HELP! FLASH! THEY'RE GOING TO KILL US"! AND HER FAMILIAR, FORGOTTEN TONES BRING FLASH INSTINCTIVELY TO THE RESCUE-
4-8

KING SAGAM RESENTS THE INTERFERENCE WITH HIS ORDERS, BUT FLASH SHAMES HIM BY SAYING; "WOULD YOU SLAY HELPLESS CAPTIVES?"

ADORA'S FEMININE JEALOUSY FORCES HER TO ASK; "ARE YOU JUST PROTECTING PRISONERS OF WAR-- OR IS IT THAT GIRL?"
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FLASH STANDS GUARD OVER HIS PRISONERS
AT NIGHT, TO SETTLE HIS DOUBTS, HE SLIPS INTO THE STOCKADE AND ASKS; "YOU, GIRL-- HOW DID YOU KNOW MY NAME?"
DALE SOBS; "FLASH, DON'T YOU REMEMBER ME?"
4-9

DALE AND ZARKOV VAINLY TRY TO CONVINCE FLASH WHO HE IS - BUT FLASH SUSPECTS A PRISONER'S TRICK TO ESCAPE AND STALKS OFF....

4-10
"WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO HIM?" DALE GASPS. ZARKOV STRAINS AT HIS BONDS: "HE MUST BE DRUGGED-HE HONESTLY DOESN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING!"

ZARKOV BREAKS LOOSE, SHREWDLY SOLVING THE MYSTERY, HE SPIES ON THE MEDICINE-MAN'S HOVEL, WHERE KING SAGAM IS MUTTERING: "BREW MORE HERBS OF FORGETFULNESS FOR FLASH!"

ZARKOV RISKS HIS LIFE TO SLIP INTO THE MEDICINE-MAN'S HUT. "GIVE ME A CURE FOR THAT MEMORY-DESTROYING BREW YOU'VE POISONED FLASH WITH--"
4-11

"NO TRICKS OR I'LL WRING YOUR NECK," ZARKOV WARNS - THE COWED MEDICINE-MAN TELLS FLASH: "I DRUGGED YOU AT SAGAMI'S ORDERS! THIS WILL CURE YOU."

"HOW DO I KNOW THIS ISN'T POISON, A PRISONER'S TRICK?" FLASH DEMANDS—ZARKOV BRAVELY TASTES THE FOUL MIXTURE

ZARKOV BRINGS FLASH THE MEDICINE TO RESTORE HIS DRUGGED MEMORY.

"ZARKOV! MY LOYAL FRIEND," CRIES FLASH IN WONDER AND DELIGHT, AS HIS MEMORY RETURNS "-- AND WHERE IS DALE?"
4-12

SWIFTLY FLASH LOOSENS THE PRISONERS' BONDS, SAYING: "MY DARLING DALE! I MUST GET YOU OUT OF HERE FAST-YOU'RE IN DEADLY DANGER!"

FLASH ARMS HIS COMRADES. "IF I DON'T GET BACK BY DAWN ZARKOV, YOU AND DALE MAKE A BREAK FOR THE SHIP-I'LL MAKE ONE LAST EFFORT TO AVOID WAR WITH THE TRIBE"

FLASH SCARES THE MEDICINE-MAN INTO OBEDIENCE-"IF SAGAM KNEW WHAT YOU'VE DONE, HE'D KILL YOU. NOW, CAN YOU BREW SOME SORT OF LOVE POTION ?"

KING SAGAM WELCOMES FLASH'S RETURN: "A TOAST TO YOUR WEDDING TOMORROW, MY SON!"

4-14
BUT FLASH PRETENDS TO STUMBLE, SUSPECTING HE'S TO BE DRUGGED AGAIN. "SO SORRY--I'M SO EXCITED ABOUT TOMORROW, SAGAM!"

"I DON'T WANT TOMORROW'S WEDDING TO LEAVE ENMITIES IN OUR TRIBE!" FLASH SAYS, "ADORA, WILL YOU SAY GOODBYE TO REGON, WHO LOVES YOU?"

FLASH HUNTS UP THE WARRIOR: "IF YOU WILL TRUST ME, REGON, I'LL HELP YOU TO WIN ADORA"--"I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU, FLASH--- BUT I'LL DO ANY-THING TO MARRY ADORA!"

"I WANT YOU TO JOIN IN A PLEDGE OF FRIENDSHIP," FLASH SAYS;OFFERING THEM THE MEDICINE-MAN'S SECRET LOVE POTION

FLASH SLIPS AWAY AS THE BREW TAKES EFFECT. "OH, REGON, I LOVE YOU," ADORA MURMURS "I WAS ONLY TRYING TO MAKE YOU JEALOUS"
4-15

ADORA BEGS FLASH TO RELEASE HER FROM THEIR ENGAGEMENT-HE HIDES HIS RELIEF-
"IF YOU INSIST, ADORA-
CONGRATULATIONS, REGON!"

"BUT FATHER WILL NEVER LET ME MARRY REGON," CRIES ADORA-
FLASH MAKES A SWIFT DECISION: "THEN COME WITH ME---!"
4-16

ADORA HOLDS A SENTRY'S ATTENTION, WHILE FLASH SLIPS UP AND SWIFTLY SILENCES HIM-
REGON OPENS THE PRISON STOCKADE ---
AND THEY SLIP THROUGH TO JOIN DALE AND ZARKOV IN THEIR ESCAPE
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FLASH AND REGON LEAD THE FLEEING BAND INTO THE FOREST, AS DAWN IS BREAKING

SUDDENLY FLASH'S KEEN EARS WARN HIM: "WE'RE BEING FOLLOWED! SAGAM'S DISCOVERED OUR ESCAPE, ALREADY"
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4-17

FIERRO ANGRILY WANTS TO MOW DOWN THE TRIBE WITH RAY-GUNS-BUT FLASH REFUSES. "THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM ..AND THEY'RE ADORA'S PEOPLE- NO, IT'S A RACE FOR OUR SHIP!"

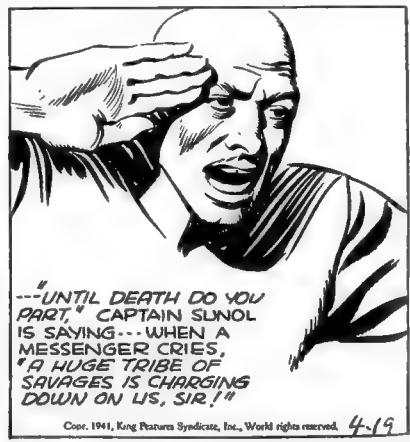
KING SAGAM FURIOUSLY LEADS HIS PURSUING WARRIORS: "I'LL KILL THAT YELLOW-HAIRED STRANGER FOR STEALING MY DAUGHTER!"

FLASH'S BAND PLUNGES INTO AN UNKNOWN RIVER IN THEIR FLIGHT- BUT FLASH CRIES: "WAIT! DON'T CROSS YET!"
4-18

FLASH HAS A TRICK UP HIS SLEEVE-HE SETS THE FOREST AFIRE ALL ALONG THE BANK, BEFORE CROSSING--FORCING SAGAM TO MAKE A LONG DETOUR-

FLASH WINS THE RACE TO THE SEA-PORT -A SENTRY'S WILD, JOYOUS CRY OF "FLASH IS BACK! HE'S SAFE!" BRINGS OUT THE WHOLE, CHEERING ARMY OF FREEMEN

FLASH HURRIES THE AMAZED REGON AND ADORA ABOARD SHIP- "QUICK, CAPTAIN SUNOL, MARRY THESE TWO," HE URGES


---"UNTIL DEATH DO YOU PART," CAPTAIN SUNOL IS SAYING---WHEN A MESSENGER CRIES, "A HUGE TRIBE OF SAVAGES IS CHARGING DOWN ON US, SIR!"
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FLASH'S DREAM OF PEACE IN HIS NEW SETTLEMENT OF FREELAND IS THREATENED BY SAGAM'S NATIVE WARRIORS
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FLASH RISKS HIS LIFE IN ONE LAST EFFORT, MEETING SAGAM TO SAY: "OH, KING OF THE TRIBE, I HAVE NOT STOLEN YOUR DAUGHTER, ADORA - SHE JUST MARRIED YOUR WARRIOR, REGON!"
BUT SAGAM CRIES STERNLY: "YOU HAVE ALL DEFIED ME - THE TRUCE ENDS IN ONE MINUTE -- -- THEN IT IS WAR TO THE DEATH!"
4-31
FLASH RUSHES REGON AND ADORA INSIDE THE BATTLE LINES, SAYING: "WE'LL HAVE PEACE AGAIN AS SOON AS SAGAM LEARNS HE CAN'T FIGHT AGAINST MODERN WEAPONS!"
BUT ADORA WARNS: "IF ANY OF THE TRIBE ARE KILLED, HIS PRIDE AND HONOR WON'T LET HIM STOP FIGHTING!"
4-32
FLASH'S HOPE OF PEACE SEEMS DOOMED - BUT HE COMMANDS: "LAY DOWN A RAY-BARRAGE IN FRONT OF THE NATIVES - TRY TO SCARE THEM OFF----"
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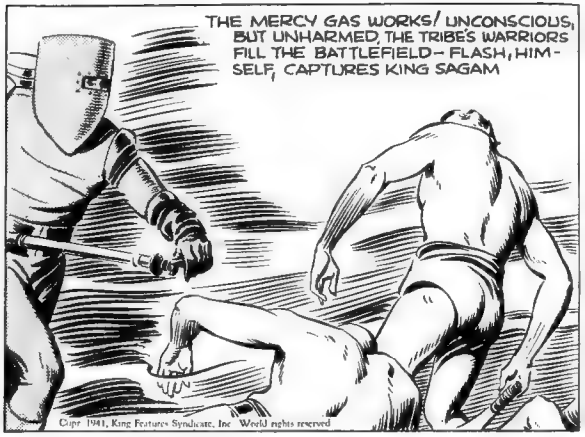
FLASH AND ZARKOV HOLD A HASTY COUNCIL OF WAR, AS THE ATTACKING NATIVES HESITATE BEFORE THE RAY-BARRAGE

4-23
THE NATIVES CHARGE AGAIN-BUT ARE MET BY FLASH AND ZARKOV, WHOSE ONE-MAN TANKS SPOUT A NEW AND UNTRIED GAS


THE MERCY GAS WORKS/ UNCONSCIOUS, BUT UNHARMED, THE TRIBE'S WARRIORS FILL THE BATTLEFIELD- FLASH, HIMSELF, CAPTURES KING SAGAM
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FLASH REVIVES KING SAGAM, CAPTURED WHILE UNCONSCIOUS IN THE SMOKE-SCREEN OF "MERCY GAS"

"I WANTED PEACE, BUT YOU CHOSE AGGRESSION AND WAR," FLASH TELLS HIM-"NOW YOU AND YOUR WARRIORS ARE MY CAPTIVES!"

ADORA PLEADS FOR SAGAM AND THE TRIBE: "WILL YOU FREE THEM, IF FATHER PROMISES NEVER TO MAKE WAR ON YOU AGAIN?"
4-24

DALE AND ZARKOV SUSPICIOUSLY OBJECT TO FREEING THE CAPTIVES ON PROMISE OF PEACE- BUT FLASH DECIDES TO GRANT SAGAM'S PAROLE
TO RELEASE HIS TRIBE, SAGAM SWEARS ON HIS ROYAL WAR-AX : "I FORGIVE MY DAUGHTER, AND I WILL NEVER START ANOTHER WAR AGAINST YOU!"
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TRUSTING THE KING'S HONOR, FLASH ORDERS THE VICTIMS OF THE "MERCY GAS" REVIVED, ONE BY ONE, AND RELEASED!
4-25
DALE IS FURIOUS OVER FLASH'S PAROLING THE WARRIORS- WOMAN-LIKE, SHE SAYS :
"JUST LIKE A FOOL MAN, ALWAYS LETTING THAT HUSSY, ADORA, TWIST YOU AROUND HER FINGER!"
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THERE'S TROUBLE IN THE CAMP, TOO- "I HAD TO FORGIVE YOU TO SAVE MY TRIBE," SAGAM TELLS ADORA AND REGON: "BUT YOU'LL NEVER ENTER MY PALACE AGAIN!"
THAT NIGHT SAGAM SECRETLY ASSEMBLES A BAND OF PICKED WARRIORS-" FLASH HAS DEFIED ME AND SHAMED US ALL- I PROMISED NOT TO START ANOTHER WAR.... BUT I NEVER SAID I'D STOP THIS ONE!"
4-26

KING SAGAM'S INJURED PRIDE DRIVES HIM TO VIOLATE HIS PAROLE-HE GETS A BAND OF WARRIORS TO WAGE SECRET WAR ON FLASH

DALE IS ALSO FURIOUS WITH FLASH, FOR OTHER REASONS-"I KNOW WHY YOU LET SAGAM GO-YOU'RE STILL IN LOVE WITH HIS DAUGHTER, ADORA!"

FLASH'S GENEROSITY HAS BROUGHT HIM NOTHING BUT TROUBLE-DEEPLY HURT AND LONELY, HE DRIVES HIMSELF. AND HIS MEN IN AN IMPORTANT NEW TASK--EXPLORING "FREELAND"
4-28
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JEALOUS OF FLASH'S KINDNESS TO ADORA, DALE REFUSES TO SPEAK TO HIM. BUT AFTER HE LEAVES IN HIS GYRO-ROCKET ON A HAZARDOUS SCOUTING TRIP, SHE WHISPERS, "OH, COME BACK SAFE, DEAR!"

FLASH IS BITTERLY SCORNFUL OF DANGER, AS HE SURVEYS THE POSSIBILITIES OF THIS NEW LAND

GUIDED BY FLASH'S ROCKET, SUNOL LEADS THE EXPLORING PARTY TO THE SOURCE OF WATER-POWER--NEVER GUESSING THAT SAGAM'S WOODS-WISE WARRIORS ARE TRAILING HIM, WAITING TO STRIKE!
4-29

KING SAGAM LEADS AN OVERWHELMING FORCE OF NATIVE WARRIORS TO AMBUSH FLASH'S UNSUSPECTING LITTLE PARTY OF EXPLORERS
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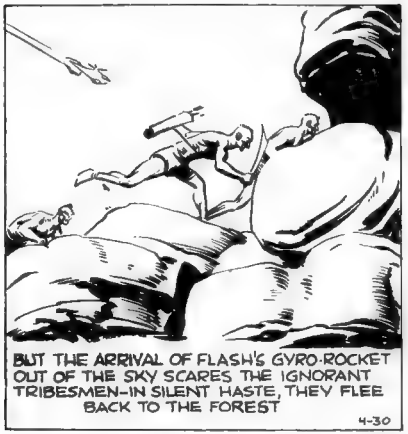
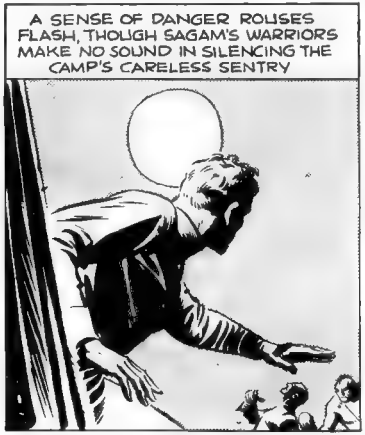

BUT THE ARRIVAL OF FLASH'S GYRO-ROCKET OUT OF THE SKY SCARES THE IGNORANT TRIBESMEN--IN SILENT HASTE, THEY FLEE BACK TO THE FOREST
4-30

ONLY SAGAM, HELD FIRM BY HATE AND PRIDE, STAYS IN AMBUSH TO SEE CAPTAIN SUNOL MEET FLASH, AS HE STEPS FROM THE "SKY-BIRD"

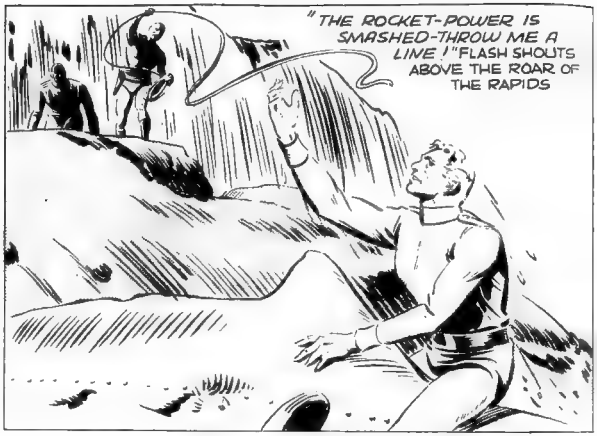
SAGAM RALLIES HIS WARRIORS, FRIGHTENED BY FLASH'S GYRO-ROCKET SHIP. "THE SKY-BIRD IS NOT ALIVE!" HE REASSURES THEM-"WE'LL WRECK IT TONIGHT!"
5-1


A SENSE OF DANGER ROUSES FLASH, THOUGH SAGAM'S WARRIORS MAKE NO SOUND IN SILENCING THE CAMP'S CARELESS SENTRY

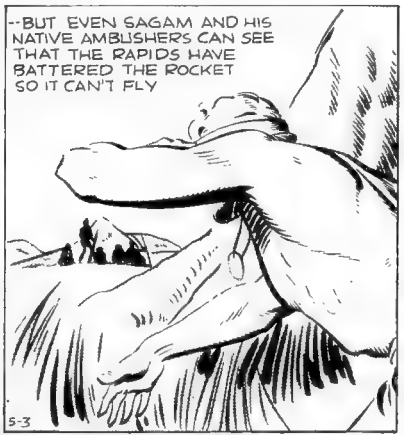
FLASH'S RECKLESS CHARGE WITH HIS RAY-PISTOL DRIVES THE RAIDERS AWAY --BUT SAGAM'S FLEEING MEN MANAGE TO TUMBLE THE ROCKET-SHIP INTO THE SWIFT RAPIDS!

FLASH DRIVES OFF THE RAIDERS--BUT DISCOVERS HIS GYRO-ROCKET BEING BATTERED BY THE ROCKY RAPIDS!

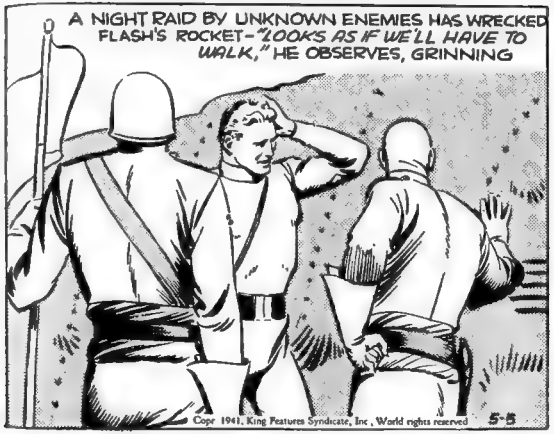
HEEDLESS OF THE FIERCE WAVES AND JAGGED ROCKS, FLASH SWIMS AFTER THE DRIFTING ROCKET-SHIP
5-2


"THE ROCKET-POWER IS SMASHED-THROW ME A LINE!" FLASH SHOUTS ABOVE THE ROAR OF THE RAPIDS

FLASH'S DARING GAMBLE WITH DEATH SAVES HIS ROCKET-SHIP FROM THE TORRENT-LABORIOUSLY, THE EXPLORING PARTY HAULS THE SHIP TO DRY GROUND


--BUT EVEN SAGAM AND HIS NATIVE AMBUSHERS CAN SEE THAT THE RAPIDS HAVE BATTERED THE ROCKET SO IT CAN'T FLY
5-3

AND IN DISTANT FREEPORT DALE SENSES THAT FLASH IS IN DANGER: "OH, WHY DID I SEND HIM AWAY LIKE THAT?" BUT ZARKOV SAYS: "FLASH CAN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF--I HOPE."


A NIGHT RAID BY UNKNOWN ENEMIES HAS WRECKED FLASH'S ROCKET-"LOOKS AS IF WE'LL HAVE TO WALK," HE OBSERVES, GRINNING
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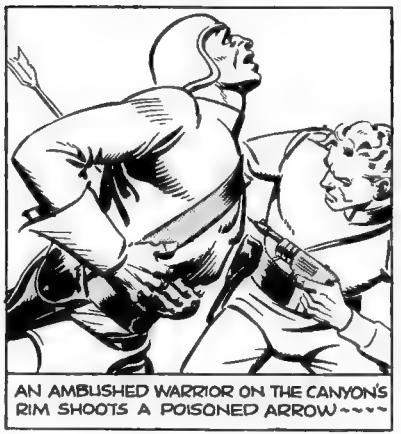
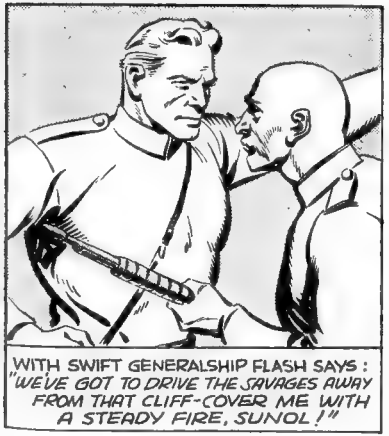
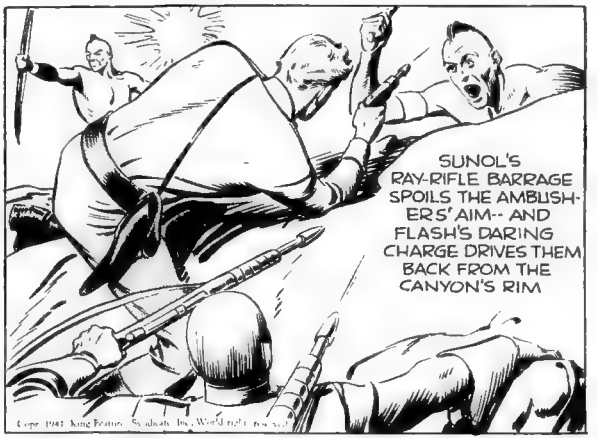
5-5


AN AMBUSHED WARRIOR ON THE CANYON'S RIM SHOOTS A POISONED ARROW~~~~

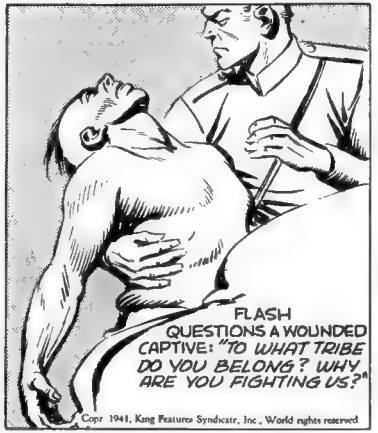
CAUGHT IN A TRAP AT THE BOTTOM OF A RIVER GORGE, FLASH AND HIS MEN FIRE BLINDLY AT THEIR UNSEEN BESIEGERS


WITH SWIFT GENERALSHIP FLASH SAYS: "WE'VE GOT TO DRIVE THE SAVAGES AWAY FROM THAT CLIFF-COVER ME WITH A STEADY FIRE, SUNOL!"

"FOLLOW ME, MEN!" FLASH RACES INTO THE HAIL OF POISONED ARROWS
5-6


SUNOL'S RAY-RIFLE BARRAGE SPOILS THE AMBUSHERS' AIM-- AND FLASH'S DARING CHARGE DRIVES THEM BACK FROM THE CANYON'S RIM

FLASH'S RECKLESS ASSAULT CAPTURES THE CLIFF OVERLOOKING HIS CAMP--BUT SAGAM'S SAVAGES KEEP FIGHTING FROM THE SHELTER OF THE FOREST
5-7


FLASH QUESTIONS A WOUNDED CAPTIVE: "TO WHAT TRIBE DO YOU BELONG? WHY ARE YOU FIGHTING US?"
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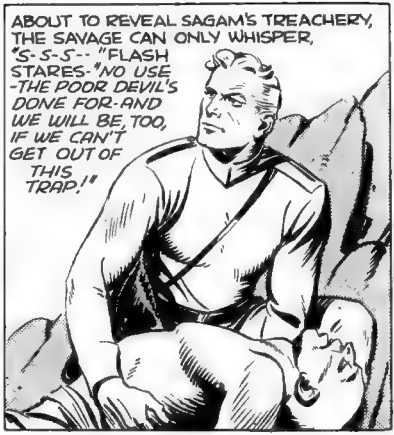
ABOUT TO REVEAL SAGAM'S TREACHERY, THE SAVAGE CAN ONLY WHISPER, "S-S-S--" FLASH STARES-"NO USE -THE POOR DEVIL'S DONE FOR-AND WE WILL BE, TOO, IF WE CAN'T GET OUT OF THIS TRAP!"

FLASH'S COURAGE AND STRATEGY WIN THE FIRST BATTLE IN HIS WAR WITH THE UNKNOWN SAVAGES AND THEIR POISONED ARROWS~~

AS FLASH AND CAPTAIN SUNOL FIGHT TO SAVE THEIR WOUNDED, HE SAYS GRIMLY: "WE'VE GOT TO GET THEM BACK TO THE HOSPITAL, FAST!"

VENGEFUL KING SAGAM GUESSES THAT FLASH WILL TRY TO FIGHT HIS WAY BACK TO THE SEA-PORT--SO HE SETS A NEW AND DEADLIER AMBUSH
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5-8

WHILE FLASH IS MARCHING HIS CRIPPLED COLUMN THROUGH ENEMY COUNTRY----
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REGON AND ADORA ARE HONEYMOONING, IGNORANT OF HER FATHER'S TREACHEROUS WAR ON FLASH-
HUNTING GAME, REGON STUMBLES ON A RETURNING WAR PARTY. "YOU CAN'T DO THIS--" HE PROTESTS AS SAGAM'S MEN SEIZE HIM
ADORA HEARS REGON'S CRY OF "ADORA--YOUR FATHER--WAR--" AND RUSHES OUT, ONLY TO BE GRIMLY TOLD, "STAY IN YOUR HOUSE-THIS ISN'T A WOMAN'S BUSINESS!"
5-9
FLASH SCOUTS AHEAD OF HIS HURRYING COLUMN, RIGHTLY SUSPECTING A TRAP, BUT HE CAN FIND NO ENEMIES-AND HIS WOUNDED CAN'T WAIT-
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ADORA TRIES TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO REGON-BUT ALL OF THE TRIBE ARE STRANGELY HOSTILE
5-10
A BRIBE LOOSENS THE MEDICINE-MAN'S TONGUE.
"SAGAM WARS ON FLASH-REGON MADE TROUBLE--GUESS HE'S DEAD NOW"-ADORA SOBS: "WHERE CAN I FIND HELP? MAYBE IN FLASH'S CAMP--"

FLASH'S CARAVAN OF WOUNDED, FAILING TO DETECT SAGAM'S WELL-HIDDEN AMBUSH, UNSUSPECTINGLY MARCHES INTO THE NARROW GORGE

SUDDENLY SAGAM'S WARRIORS LAUNCH AN AVALANCHE OF ROCKS AND BOULDERS FROM THE CLIFF ABOVE!
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TRAPPED, UNABLE TO ESCAPE OR FIGHT BACK, FLASH'S BAND SEEMS DOOMED, AS THEIR HEROIC COMMANDER FALLS ~~
5-12

THE DEADLY BOULDER BARRAGE KNOCKS FLASH DOWN, BUT THE DANGER TO HIS MEN ROUSES HIM TO SNATCH THE ONE CHANCE FOR SAFETY. "UNDER THE OVERHANGING CLIFF," HE ORDERS
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FLASH BRAVES THE RAIN OF ROCKS TO RESCUE THE LAST OF HIS DAZED AND WOUNDED BAND
5-13

AS FLASH HUGS THE CLIFF, VAINLY SEARCHING FOR A WAY OUT OF THE TRAP, HE SPIES A LONE FIGURE COMING UP THE CANYON - IT IS THE PRINCESS ADORA!

PRINCESS ADORA RUNS TOWARD THE SCENE OF THE AMBUSH, RISKING HER LIFE TO PERSUADE HER FATHER TO STOP HIS TREACHEROUS WARFARE
5-14

WHEN ADORA REFUSES TO OBEY HIS ORDER TO TURN BACK, SAGAM RUTHLESSLY TELLS HIS WARRIORS: "STONE HER! SHE DARED DISOBEY ME!"

ONE SHOT, TOO WELL-AIMED, KNOCKS ADORA OUT- INSTANTLY, FLASH DARTS TO THE RESCUE, HEEDLESS OF THE TERRIBLE BARRAGE OF ROCKS
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WHEN THE SAVAGES' AMBUSH CLAIMS ADORA AS A VICTIM, FLASH RESCUES HER
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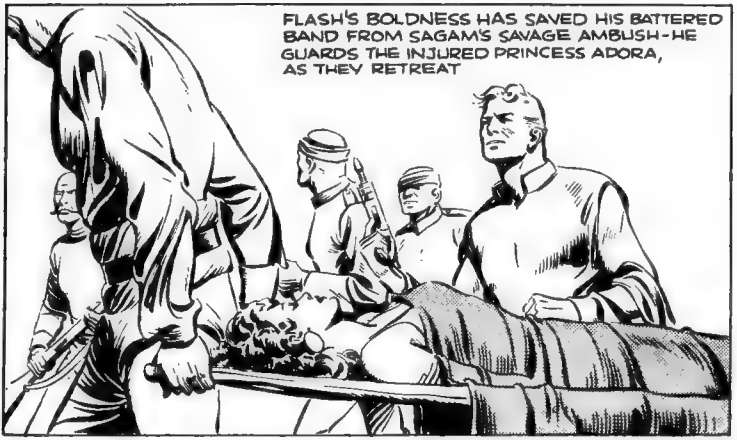
OUTRAGED BY THE UNPROVOKED ATTACK ON ADORA, FLASH GOES BERSERK

QUICK-WITTED CAPTAIN SUNOL TAKES ADVANTAGE OF FLASH'S COVERING FIRE TO ESCAPE FROM THE DEATH-TRAP


FLASH'S BOLDNESS HAS SAVED HIS BATTERED BAND FROM SAGAM'S SAVAGE AMBUSH - HE GUARDS THE INJURED PRINCESS ADORA, AS THEY RETREAT

ENCAMPED FOR THE NIGHT, FLASH STANDS GUARD-ADORA REVEALS HER FATHER'S TREACHERY: "THE WHOLE TRIBE IS OUT TO KILL YOU, FLASH"
5-16
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"YOU DON'T BLAME ME FOR IT, FLASH? I'VE LOST MY FATHER AND REGON-- YOU'RE ALL I HAVE LEFT!"--SHE PLEADS - HE ANSWERS GENEROUSLY. "I'LL HELP YOU!"

DAYLIGHT REVEALS A DESPERATE SITUATION - "WE MUST GET THE MEN TO OUR HOSPITAL QUICKLY," SUNOL WARNS - FLASH'S REPLY IS GRIM: "IN A FIFTY-MILE HIKE, THE AMBUSHED SAVAGES WILL PICK THEM OFF!"

THE SIGHT OF HIS WRECKED ROCKET-SHIP SUGGESTS A WILD AND INGENIOUS SCHEME TO FLASH: "I WANT TWO VOLUNTEERS--"
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5-17

LEAVING SUNOL TO GUARD THE HILL-TOP, FLASH RACES TO THE ROCKET THAT CAN NEVER FLY AGAIN
"FOLLOW ME, MEN!" HE CALLS TO HIS PUZZLED, BUT LOYAL, VOLUNTEERS

FLASH TENSELY INSPECTS THE WRECKED ROCKET-PLANE, WHICH IS HIS ONE HOPE FOR ESCAPE —
ON THE COMMANDING HILL-TOP SUNOL KEEPS THE SAVAGE SNIPERS AT A DISTANCE, WHILE ADORA IS AN ANGEL OF MERCY AMONG THE VICTIMS OF POISONED ARROWS
FLASH'S SCHEME IS SO FANTASTIC THAT HE DOESN'T EXPLAIN IT TO HIS MEN, AS THEY USE ROCKET POWER-TUBES TO WELD THE SHATTERED WALLS
5-19
FLASH HAS HIS PUZZLED MEN HOLD THE PATCHED ROCKET-PLANE IN THE FIERCE RAPIDS- "IT FLOATS!" HE SHOUTS -
5-20
"THERE'S ONLY ROOM FOR THE WOUNDED AND A CREW OF ONE. WILL YOU PILOT THE ROCKET-BOAT?" FLASH ASKS - BUT SUNOL LOOKS AT THE RAPIDS: "I CAN SAIL BATTLE-SHIPS, BUT NOT THAT THING - WE'LL WAIT HERE FOR YOUR RETURN WITH A RESCUE PARTY!"
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"WE'LL BE SAFE FROM ATTACK HERE - IF YOU AREN'T BACK WITH A RESCUE PARTY IN FOUR DAYS, THOUGH, WE'LL FIGHT OUR WAY THROUGH THE SAVAGES!" SAYS SUNOL

SUNOL SADLY BIDS FAREWELL, AS THE WOUNDED-LADEN, MAKESHIFT ROCKET BOAT IS LAUNCHED IN THE DEADLY RAPIDS - "HE'LL NEVER GET THROUGH - THERE'S THE END OF THE BRAVEST MAN ALIVE"
5 21
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BUT FLASH IS TOO BUSY TO WEIGH HIS SLIM CHANCES, AS HE PILOTS HIS PRECIOUS CARGO BETWEEN ROCKS AND WHIRLPOOLS

AS FLASH'S ROCKET-BOAT RACES DOWN THE RAPIDS, ADORA TENDS TO THE BRAVE, UNCOMPLAINING CARGO OF WOUNDED MEN----

STEERING BY USING ROCKET-BLASTS AS A RUDDER, FLASH CHEERS HER BY JOKING; "THIS IS LIKE LEARNING TO PARACHUTE-JUMP. YOU HAVE TO DO IT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME!"

THE AMBUSHED SAVAGES VAINLY FIRE ARROWS AT THE STEELITE SHIP; "WE MUST WARN KING SAGAM!" THEY CRY ANGRILY -
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5-28

THE ADVANCE GUARD OF WARRIORS SMOKE-SIGNAL THE NEWS OF FLASH'S ESCAPE BY ROCKET-BOAT-"SKY-BIRD SWIMS DOWN-STREAM!"
SAGAM READS THE MESSAGE AND SHOUTS: "TRIBE! RUN TO THE MOUNTAIN-SIDE ABOVE THE RIVER!"
5-13
AS FLASH'S BOAT IS SIGHTED RACING DOWN THE GORGE, SAGAM'S WARRIORS START A MIGHTY AVALANCHE DOWN THE MOUNTAIN!
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THE SWIFT TORRENT CARRIES FLASH'S ROCKET-BOAT SQUARELY INTO THE PATH OF THE AVALANCHE STARTED BY SAGAM'S SAVAGE WARRIORS!
A HUNDRED TONS OF BOULDERS BURY THE ILL-FATED CRAFT AT THE BOTTOM OF THE STREAM-
FLASH'S UNCONSCIOUS BODY CUSHIONS ADORA AGAINST THE SHOCK, AS THEY ARE BURIED ALIVE - FEEBLY SHE MURMURS, "FLASH,-- DARLING,-- --SPEAK TO ME!"
5-14
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ADORA VAINLY TRIES TO REVIVE FLASH AS THE AVALANCHE BURIES THEM ALIVE IN THE ROCKET-BOAT
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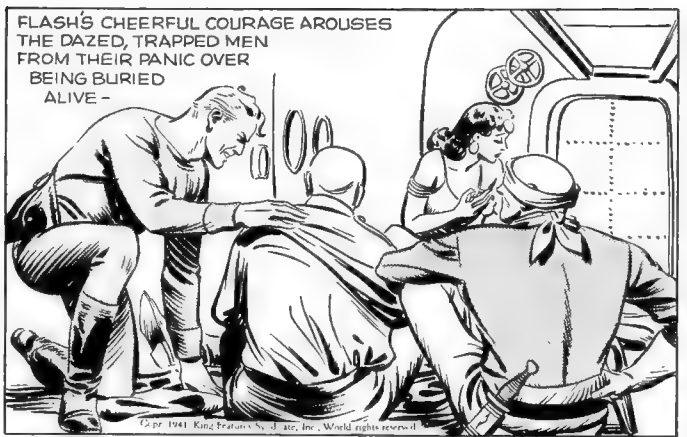
THE PRESSURE OF BOULDERS AND WATER FORCES A GROWING STREAM THROUGH THE CABIN'S CRACKED WINDOW.

AROUSED BY THE SHOCK OF THE COLD WATER, FLASH PLUGS THE HOLE. "THIS WON'T LAST LONG!" HE ASSURES ADORA
5-26

"LET'S SEE HOW OUR WOUNDED SURVIVED THE CRASH," FLASH URGES, TO SAVE ADORA FROM A GROWING HYSTERIA
5-27


FLASH'S CHEERFUL COURAGE AROUSES THE DAZED, TRAPPED MEN FROM THEIR PANIC OVER BEING BURIED ALIVE –
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BUT FLASH'S HOPEFULNESS IS A MASK. HE'S GRIM, AS HE THROWS ON FULL ROCKET-POWER, VAINLY TRYING TO DRIVE THROUGH COUNTLESS TONS OF ROCK AND DIRT.

THE ROCKET SHAKES, STRAINING ITS PATCHED JOINTS, AS FLASH USES TOTAL ROCKET-POWER, WITHOUT BUDGING IT FROM ITS WATERY GRAVE.

THE QUIET OF THE TOMB FALLS, AS FLASH TURNS OFF HIS ROCKETS TO CONSERVE THE LAST OF ITS POWER. "YOU DID YOUR BEST," ADORA SAYS. "I DON'T MIND, AS LONG AS I'M WITH YOU!"

BUT THOUGHTS OF DALE, WAITING ALONE IN THE DISTANT SEAPORT, AND THE TRUSTING FACES OF HIS MEN, SPUR FLASH ON. HE PILES THE ROCKET'S SCANT EQUIPMENT IN THE CONTROL-CABIN---
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FLASH SEALS THE DOOR INTO THE BURIED ROCKET'S MAIN CABIN, SAVING ADORA AND THE WOUNDED FROM THE RISING WATER.

DONNING AN OXYGEN MASK, HE OPENS THE PILOT'S WINDOW

ONLY FLASH'S SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH ENABLES HIM TO DRIVE HIS WAY OUT OF THE FLOODED CONTROL-CABIN
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WITH DOGGED DESPERATION, FLASH ROCKET— BLASTS A TUNNEL AHEAD OF THE TRAPPED VESSEL, THROUGH THE PACKED MASS OF STONES AND DIRT AT THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER.
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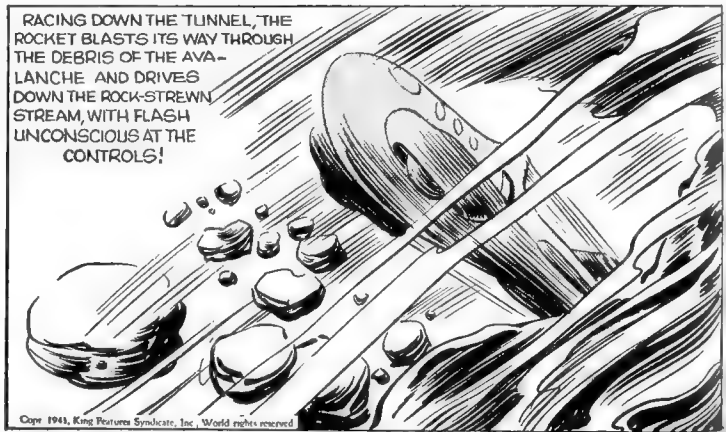
5-30

FLASH USES HIS LAST SPARE ROCKET-TUBE IN A DESPERATE EFFORT TO DRIVE A TUNNEL THROUGH THE AVALANCHE'S DEBRIS.

GRIMLY, HE RETURNS TO HIS FLOODED CONTROL-CABIN FOR ONE FINAL GAMBLE WITH DEATH.

FLASH'S EFFORTS TO CLOSE THE PILOT'S WINDOW OF THE CABIN ARE EXHAUSTING HIS SCANT SUPPLY OF OXYGEN.

WITH FADING SENSES, HE PULLS ALL ROCKET— LEVERS TO FULL SPEED AHEAD!
5-31


RACING DOWN THE TUNNEL, THE ROCKET BLASTS ITS WAY THROUGH THE DEBRIS OF THE AVALANCHE AND DRIVES DOWN THE ROCK-STREWN STREAM, WITH FLASH UNCONSCIOUS AT THE CONTROLS!
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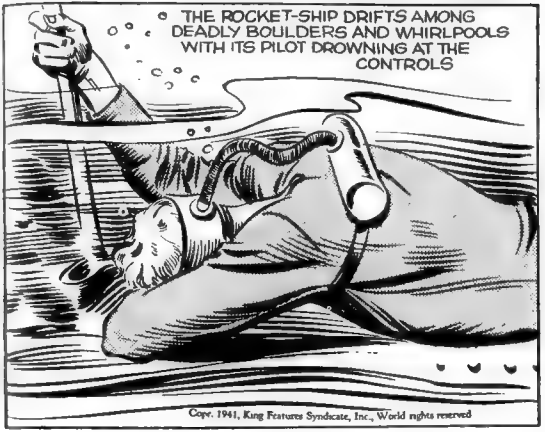
THE ROCKET-SHIP DRIFTS AMONG DEADLY BOULDERS AND WHIRLPOOLS WITH ITS PILOT DROWNING AT THE CONTROLS
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LOCKED IN THE MAIN CABIN, ADORA SENSES DISASTER. VAINLY SHE CRIES: "FLASH! ANSWER ME! WHAT'S WRONG?"
6-2

BUFFETED AND SHAKEN BY COLLISIONS WITH THE ROCKS OUTSIDE, ADORA AND THE MORE ABLE-BODIED MEN TURN THEIR PISTOLS INTO RAY-TORCHES TO BURN THROUGH THE LOCKED DOOR

RAY-TORCHES MELT A HOLE THROUGH THE BARRED DOOR, "LOOK OUT!" ADORA CRIES, "THE PILOT CABIN IS FLOODED
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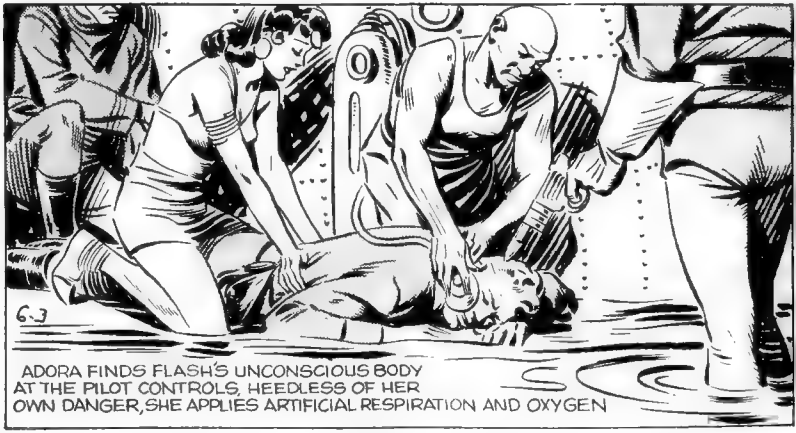
6-3
ADORA FINDS FLASH'S UNCONSCIOUS BODY AT THE PILOT CONTROLS, HEEDLESS OF HER OWN DANGER, SHE APPLIES ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION AND OXYGEN

ADORA QUICKLY REVIVES FLASH, HIS FIRST THOUGHT IS OF HIS MEN'S PERIL! "QUICK! LET ME GET AT THE STEERING CONTROLS! "

TENSELY, FLASH DIRECTS HIS MEN TO FIX UP A ROCKET-PUMP TO BAIL OUT THE HALF-FLOODED VESSEL, WHILE HE STEERS DOWN THE PERILOUS STREAM
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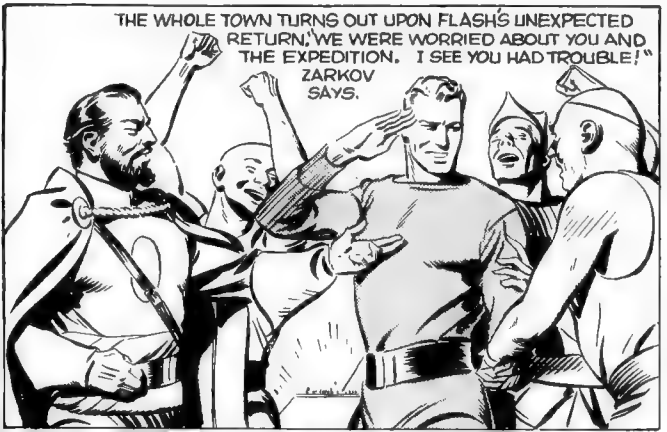
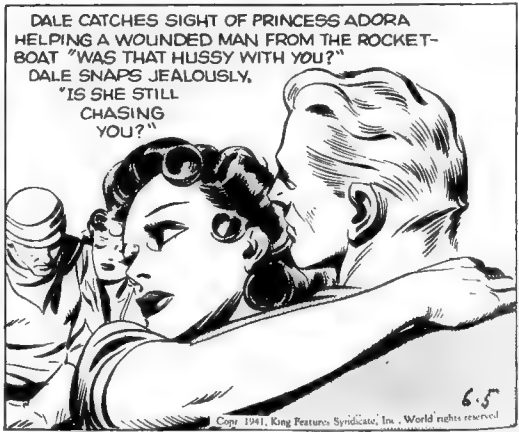
FLASH'S SUPERLATIVE SKILL AVOIDS A THOUSAND DISASTERS AND BRINGS THE MAKESHIFT VESSEL TO THE HARBOR OF HIS CAPITAL, FREEPORT
6·4


THE WHOLE TOWN TURNS OUT UPON FLASH'S UNEXPECTED RETURN. "WE WERE WORRIED ABOUT YOU AND THE EXPEDITION. I SEE YOU HAD TROUBLE!" ZARKOV SAYS.

AT LAST, THE ONE PERSON FLASH MOST WANTED TO SEE, PUSHES HER WAY THROUGH THE CHEERING THRONG. "DALE, MY DARLING!"


DALE CATCHES SIGHT OF PRINCESS ADORA HELPING A WOUNDED MAN FROM THE ROCKET-BOAT "WAS THAT HUSSY WITH YOU?" DALE SNAPS JEALOUSLY. "IS SHE STILL CHASING YOU?"
6·5
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"A LIKELY STORY!" DALE SNIFFS, AS FLASH EXPLAINS HOW ADORA HAD COME TO WARN HIM OF SAGAM'S TREACHERY. "OH, FLASH, I LOVE YOU SO MUCH. PLEASE SEND HER AWAY!"

"I SWEAR SHE MEANS NOTHING TO ME," FLASH SAYS EARNESTLY. "BE KIND TO HER--SHE'S LOST HER HUSBAND. TAKE CARE OF HER, WHILE I'M RESCUING SUNOL!" DALE IS ODDLY SILENT

FLASH'S RESCUE PARTY IS PREPARED TO DEAL WITH SAGAM'S WARRIORS. A TRAIN OF BULLET-TANKS ROLLS RELENTLESSLY INTO THE JUNGLE.
G 6
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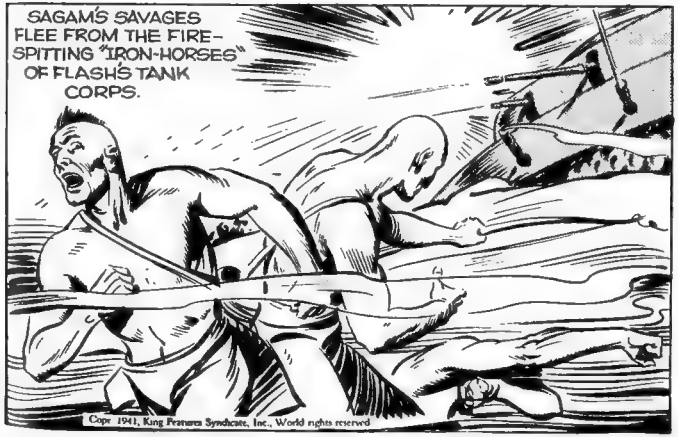
SAGAM'S SAVAGES FLEE FROM THE FIRE-SPITTING "IRON-HORSES" OF FLASH'S TANK CORPS.
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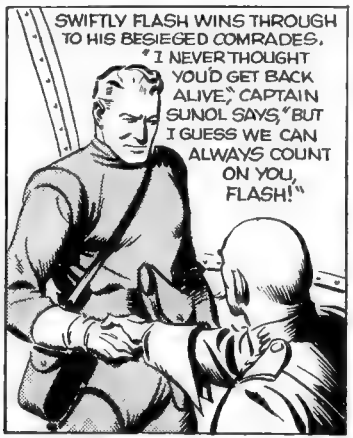
SWIFTLY FLASH WINS THROUGH TO HIS BESIEGED COMRADES. "I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D GET BACK ALIVE," CAPTAIN SUNOL SAYS, "BUT I GUESS WE CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON YOU, FLASH!"

BUT THE CHIEF, SAGAM, RALLYING HIS SCATTERED WARRIORS, VOWS TO DESTROY THE MEN WHO DARED VENTURE INTO HIS SAVAGE DOMAIN. "WE WILL TRAP THE IRON-HORSES!"
G 7

FLASH STARTS BACK TO FREEPORT WITH HIS RESCUED COMRADES, SAFE INSIDE THEIR HUGE TANKS!

BUT WILY AND REVENGEFUL SAGAM DRIVES HIS WARRIORS. "DIG ELEPHANT TRAPS FOR THE 'IRON HORSES' FLASH RIDES," HE ORDERS
6-9

"FILL THE HOLES WITH THE BURNING-WATER," SAGAM COMMANDS—AND HIS TRIBE FORMS A BUCKET BRIGADE TO A NEAR-BY POOL OF CRUDE OIL.
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FLASH AND CAPTAIN SUNOL HAVE THE POST OF HONOR IN THE LEADING TANK. "NOT A SIGN OF SAGAM'S WARRIORS," FLASH GRINS, "GUESS THEY'VE GIVEN UP THE FIGHT"

BUT FLASH'S KEEN EYES DETECT SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS, AS THE TANKS RETRACE THEIR WAY TO FREEPORT. "FUNNY--OUR TRACKS DON'T LOOK THE SAME- "ATTENTION! TANKS, HALT!"

AND SO IT IS ONLY FLASH'S TANK THAT VENTURES INTO THE DANGER ZONE---AND SPRINGS THE DEADLY TRAP THAT THE WILY CHIEF SAGAM HAS SET FOR THEM!
6-10

FLASH AND SUNOL ARE BADLY SHAKEN UP, AS THEIR TANK PLUNGES DEEP INTO THE TRAP DUG BENEATH THE FOREST FLOOR

THE OTHER TANKS OPEN FIRE, AS THE SAVAGES DART FROM COVER TO HURL FLAMING TORCHES INTO THE PIT

SOME OF THE TORCHES LAND IN THE OIL-SOAKED TRAP---AND INSTANTLY FLASH'S TANK IS SURROUNDED BY A ROARING INFERNO!
6-11

FLASH GUNS HIS MOTORS TO GET OUT OF THE BLAZING INFERNO OF THE TANK TRAP-- BUT HIS MACHINE CANNOT CLIMB THE VERTICAL WALLS
6-12

SCORCHING IN THE ROASTING HEAT FLASH KNOWS HE AND SUNOL HAVE ONLY MINUTES TO LIVE IN THEIR STEEL OVEN

"BY TAO! ARE YOU CRAZY WITH THE HEAT?" CRIES SUNOL, AS FLASH RACES TO PILE THE TANK'S AMMUNITION ON THE NEARLY RED-HOT FLOOR, BUT FLASH HAS A PLAN

TRAPPED IN A BURNING TANK, FLASH PUTS A STEEL SHIELD OVER THEIR AMMUNITION - "COVER YOUR FACE AND OPEN THE ESCAPE HATCH!" FLASH ORDERS CAPTAIN SUNOL

--THEN, DELIBERATELY, HE AIMS AT THE EXPLOSIVES BENEATH HIS FEET

RECKLESSLY FLASH TAKES THE ONE CHANCE OF GETTING THROUGH THE FLAMES IN THE TANK TRAP - BY BEING BLOWN OUT OF THE ESCAPE HATCH!
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G-13

FLASH'S MEN DASH INTO THE FOREST TO RECOVER THE BODIES OF SUNOL AND THEIR BELOVED COMMANDER, AFTER THE TANK EXPLODES
G-14

THE LOYAL TANK CORPS TAKES A GRIM TOLL OF THE SAVAGES WHO TRAPPED FLASH AND SUNOL —
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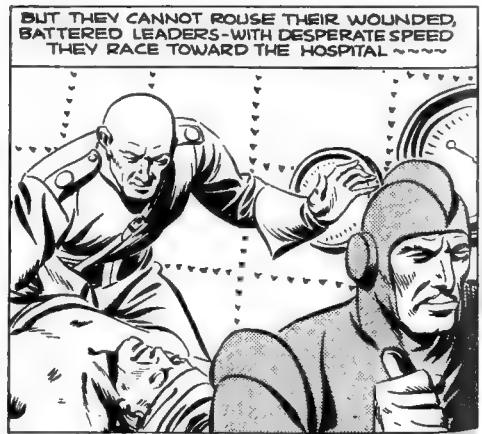
BUT THEY CANNOT ROUSE THEIR WOUNDED, BATTERED LEADERS - WITH DESPERATE SPEED THEY RACE TOWARD THE HOSPITAL ~~~~

FLASH'S NEW CAPITAL OF FREELAND TURNS OUT TO A MAN, WELCOMING THEIR RETURNING HERO-
BUT JOY TURNS TO HORROR WHEN THEY LEARN FLASH IS UNCONSCIOUS, NEAR DEATH-
FEVERISHLY THEY HURRY THE BODIES OF FLASH AND SUNOL TO ZARKOV'S NEWLY COMPLETED HOSPITAL
OPERATING-ROOM
6-16
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SWIFTLY AND DEFTLY, ZARKOV TREATS FLASH'S BURNS WITH CHEMISALVE AND HEALING RAYS, THE BEST THE PLANET'S SCIENCE CAN OFFER
"HE'S NOT RESPONDING---I CAN'T ROUSE HIM!" ZARKOV CRIES. "THERE MUST BE INTERNAL INJURIES----"
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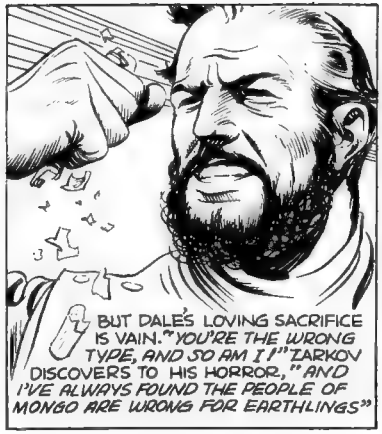
6-17
"THE ONLY HOPE IS AN IMMEDIATE TRANSFUSION," ZARKOV MUTTERS. EAGERLY DALE OFFERS, "LET ME HELP, -- PLEASE!"

FLASH IS NEAR DEATH, AS ZARKOV HURRIEDLY TESTS DALE FOR A TRANSFUSION! "FLASH'S BLOOD IS A RARE TYPE," THE SCIENTIST MUTTERS ANXIOUSLY....


BUT DALE'S LOVING SACRIFICE IS VAIN. "YOU'RE THE WRONG TYPE, AND SO AM I!" ZARKOV DISCOVERS TO HIS HORROR. "AND I'VE ALWAYS FOUND THE PEOPLE OF MONGO ARE WRONG FOR EARTHLINGS"

ZARKOV STRAINS MEDICAL SCIENCE'S LAST RESOURCES TO KEEP FLASH ALIVE UNTIL HE CAN MAKE SOME PLASMA THAT WILL SAVE THE DOOMED HERO -
6-18
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FLASH IS SINKING FAST FROM LOSS OF BLOOD; DESPITE ALL ZARKOV CAN DO-DALE, TRYING TO BE A GOOD SOLDIER, BREAKS DOWN. "OH, MY DARLING, DON'T DIE!"

THERE'S A COMMOTION IN THE HALL- "YOU CAN'T GO IN THERE!" AN INTERNE PROTESTS, BUT PRINCESS ADORA BURSTS IN- "ZARKOV, YOU MUST SAVE FLASH SOMEHOW-- I'D GIVE MY LIFE FOR HIM--"
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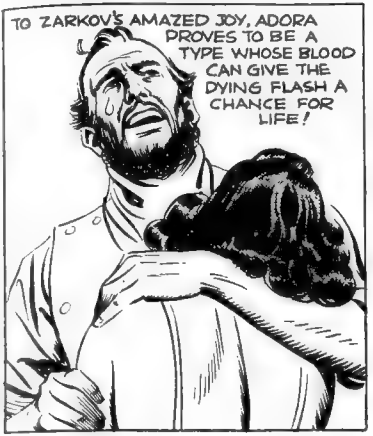
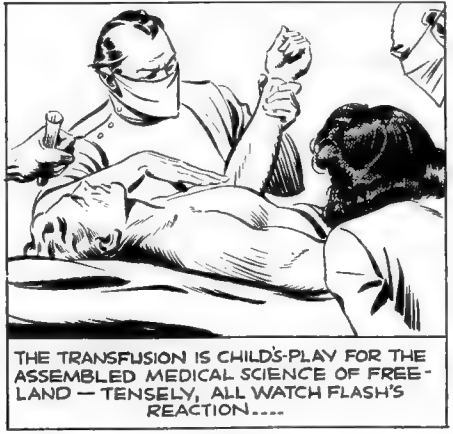
"MONGO BLOOD WOULD KILL FLASH," ZARKOV TELLS THE GIRL, BUT SHE CRIES, "I'M ONE OF SAGAM'S TRIBE--YOU'VE NEVER TESTED US" WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD THE SCIENTIST LEAPS INTO ACTION!
6-19


TO ZARKOV'S AMAZED JOY, ADORA PROVES TO BE A TYPE WHOSE BLOOD CAN GIVE THE DYING FLASH A CHANCE FOR LIFE!


THE TRANSFUSION IS CHILD'S-PLAY FOR THE ASSEMBLED MEDICAL SCIENCE OF FREE-LAND — TENSELY, ALL WATCH FLASH'S REACTION----

THE WHOLE HOSPITAL GOES WILD WITH HAPPINESS, AS FLASH OPENS HIS EYES AND SOFTLY WHISPERS, "DALE"
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6-20

"YOU'VE SAVED FLASH'S LIFE," ZARKOV HUMBLY TELLS PRINCESS ADORA. "ALL FREELAND OWES YOU MORE THAN WE CAN EVER REPAY!"
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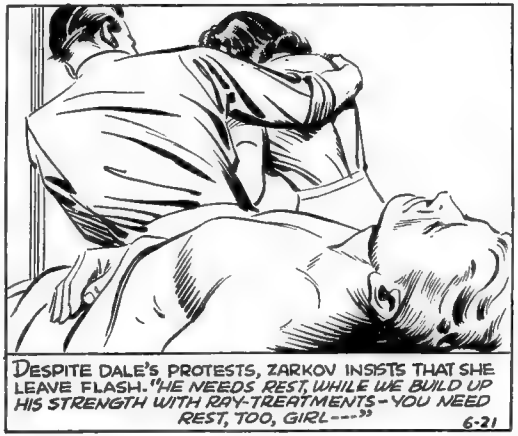
DESPITE DALE'S PROTESTS, ZARKOV INSISTS THAT SHE LEAVE FLASH. "HE NEEDS REST, WHILE WE BUILD UP HIS STRENGTH WITH RAY-TREATMENTS - YOU NEED REST, TOO, GIRL---"
6-21

BUT DALE CANNOT REST - WORRIED ABOUT FLASH, AND OVERWROUGHT FROM HER LONG WATCH OVER HIM, SHE GIVES WAY TO HYSTERICAL JEALOUSY, AS ADORA LEAVES THE HOSPITAL: "YOU THINK HE'LL FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU NOW? YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN AFTER HIM-- BUT YOU WON'T GET HIM!"

SOBBING, ADORA PROMISES TO GIVE UP FLASH. "DON'T GET EXCITED, DALE. I KNOW HE LOVES YOU. I'LL GO AWAY. TELL HIM GOOD-BYE FOR ME...."

AT LAST, DALE CAN VISIT FLASH, WHO IS RAPIDLY GAINING STRENGTH, THANKS TO THE TRANSFUSION. "WAS IT YOU?" FLASH ASKS. DALE HESITATES, AND, TEMPTED, SHE SAYS: "YOU KNOW I'D DO ANYTHING FOR YOU, DEAR--"
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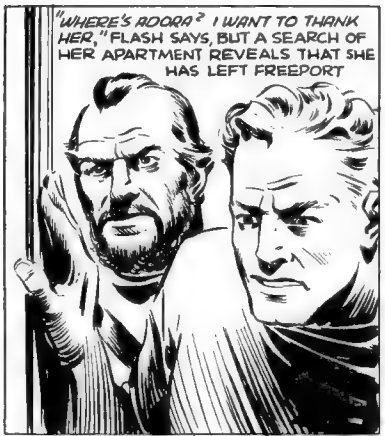
SHAME-FACED, DALE EXPLAINS TO ZARKOV: "PLEASE DON'T TELL FLASH IT WAS THAT ADORA WHO SAVED HIM!" SHE BEGS JEALOUSLY-
6-23

6-24
FLASH RECOVERS SWIFTLY. "I FEEL ALMOST MYSELF AGAIN," HE SAYS, AN INTERNE LETS THE CAT OUT OF THE BAG BY SAYING: "THANKS TO ADORA, WHO SAVED YOUR LIFE"


"WHERE'S ADORA? I WANT TO THANK HER," FLASH SAYS, BUT A SEARCH OF HER APARTMENT REVEALS THAT SHE HAS LEFT FREEPORT

FLASH INSISTS ON LEADING A SEARCHING PARTY- "BUT SHE SAID TO TELL YOU GOODBYE FOREVER," DALE ARGUES. FLASH SNARLS ANGRILY: "SO THAT'S IT-- YOU JEALOUSLY DROVE HER AWAY, AFTER GRABBING THE CREDIT FOR WHAT SHE DID FOR ME!"
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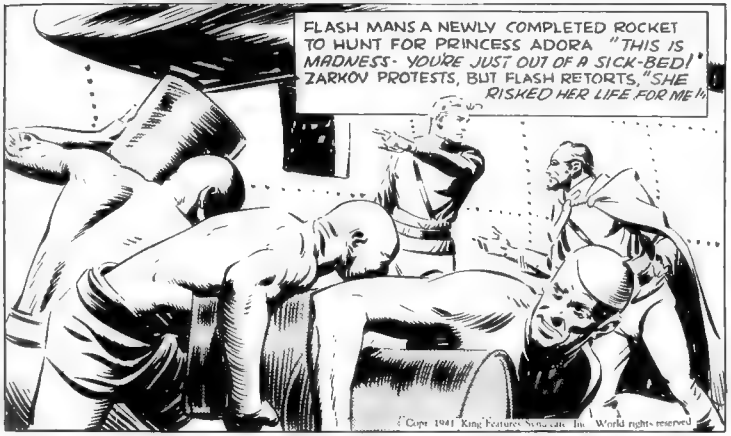
FLASH MANS A NEWLY COMPLETED ROCKET TO HUNT FOR PRINCESS ADORA "THIS IS MADNESS- YOU'RE JUST OUT OF A SICK-BED!' ZARKOV PROTESTS, BUT FLASH RETORTS, "SHE RISKED HER LIFE FOR ME!"
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TEARFULLY, DALE BEGS HIM NOT TO GO, BUT FLASH SAYS COLDLY: "YOU SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF THAT BEFORE YOU DROVE HER OUT INTO THE FORESTS WITHOUT A FRIEND IN THE WORLD, EXCEPT ME!"
6-25

FLASH ROCKETS AWAY ON A GALLANT SEARCH FOR THE HEART-BROKEN ADORA, LOST IN A HOSTILE WILDERNESS

FLASH SEARCHES THE FORESTS FOR ADORA, AN OUTCAST FROM HER TRIBE, AND NOW DRIVEN FROM FREELAND BY DALE'S JEALOUSY.
HIS ROCKET BROADCASTS BY LOUD-SPEARER: "ADORA, SEND UP A SMOKE SIGNAL!"
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A VOICE FROM THE SKIES STARTLES THE TRAGIC, LONELY FUGITIVE - "ADORA! FLASH CALLING----!"
6-26

BUT SHE HAS PROMISED TO LEAVE FLASH FOREVER. INSTEAD OF SIGNALING, SHE HIDES--NOT SEEING THAT ONE OF SAGAM'S WARRIORS IS NEAR.

VAINLY FLASH FLIES OVER THE FOREST, HIS LOUD-SPEAKER CALLING ADORA!

ADORA COULD NOT ANSWER, IF SHE WOULD-- FOR ONE OF HER FATHER'S WARRIORS HAS CREPT UP ON HER, IN HER HIDING-PLACE!
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WITH SAVAGE CUNNING, HE KEEPS OUT OF SIGHT, AS HE CARRIES HIS CAPTIVE BEFORE KING SAGAM. "YOU WERE MY DAUGHTER UNTIL YOU DEFIED ME FOR THE SAKE OF FLASH GORDON," SAGAM SAYS GRIMLY, "NOW YOU MUST DIE, BY TRIBAL LAW!"
6-27

IN A HIDDEN FOREST CAMP, KING SAGAM RUTHLESSLY PREPARES TO EXECUTE THE DAUGHTER WHO DISOBEYED HIM TO HELP FLASH GORDON
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FLASH TURNS ON HIS TELEVISO-MAGNIFIER TO SURVEY THE FOREST FLOOR BENEATH. HORRIFIED HE VIEWS THE GRIM TRAGEDY IMPENDING BELOW!

HEEDLESS OF ODDS AND DANGER, FLASH ROCKETS DOWN LIKE AN AVENGING BOLT OF LIGHTNING
6-28

FLASH'S SUDDEN DIVE-ATTACK ROUTS THE SAVAGES, AS THEY WERE ABOUT TO EXECUTE PRINCESS ADORA
THE CLEARING IS TOO SMALL FOR A LANDING, EVEN IN A GYRO-ROCKET-FLASH'S LANDING-GEAR IS SMASHED, AS HE BRAKES TO A HALT
FLASH DASHES FROM HIS CAREENING ROCKET-SHIP TO RESCUE ADORA, WHO HAS FAINTED IN RELIEF OVER HER SUDDEN ESCAPE FROM THE HEADSMAN'S WAR-AX!
6-30
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KING SAGAM RALLIES HIS FRIGHTENED TRIBE: "COME ON--THERE'S ONLY ONE MAN IN THE SKY-BIRD - I'LL REWARD THE WARRIOR WHO KILLS HIM!"
ADORA ROUSES HERSELF IN FLASH'S ARMS: "AM I DREAMING? IS IT REALLY YOU, MY HERO?" 7-1
A SHOWER OF POISONED ARROWS FLIES TOWARD FLASH, AS HE CARRIES THE PRINCESS TO SHELTER
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FLASH TRIES TO SHIELD ADORA WITH HIS BODY, BUT ONE OF THE TRIBE'S DEADLY, POISONED ARROWS FINDS ITS MARK
7-2
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WITH A FURIOUS BURST OF RAY-BOLTS FLASH DRIVES BACK THE MURDEROUS SAVAGES AND CLOSES THE ROCKET'S ESCAPE-HATCH

"IT'S NO USE--I'M DONE FOR," ADORA SAYS FAINTLY, BUT FLASH RISKS HIS LIFE TO SUCK THE POISON FROM HER WOUND "I'LL SAVE YOU," HE MUTTERS GRIMLY

VENGEFUL KING SAGAM IS MAD WITH HATRED, AS HE DRIVES HIS WARRIORS TO ATTACK THE WRECKED ROCKET-SHIP AND KILL THE DAUGHTER HE CONDEMNED TO DEATH
7-3

BUT FLASH, HAVING SAVED ADORA FROM THE ARROW POISON, TURNS TO THE SHIP'S FIRING-PORTS AND TEACHES THE SAVAGES A LESSON BY PICKING OFF THOSE WHO SPRING FROM COVER

UNDAUNTED, WILY SAGAM SENDS HIS MEN FOR CRUDE OIL TO BURN THE TRAPPED SHIP. "QUICK--- BRING THE BURNING WATER!"
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"OH, FLASH, YOU SAVED MY LIFE," ADORA MURMURS GRATEFULLY. FLASH ONLY LAUGHS: "WAIT TILL WE GET OUT OF YOUR FATHER'S TRAP BEFORE YOU DECIDE TO BE THANKFUL—"

ON THE BARE CHANCE THAT HIS RADIO STILL WORKS, FLASH BROADCASTS A CALL FOR HELP. "HELLO, FREEPORT-- I'VE CRASHED IN SAGAM'S CAMP. COME ON IN, THE WATER'S FINE--!"

AT HEADQUARTERS IN FREEPORT, ZARKOV IS GLUED TO THE RADIO - "I THINK I HEAR FLASH--" HE MUTTERS. DALE CRIES, "OH, WHERE IS HE? WHAT'S HAPPENED?"
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PART OF FLASH'S MESSAGE GETS THROUGH. CAPTAIN SUNOL CALLS FOR VOLUNTEERS TO RESCUE FLASH--AND ALL FREELAND STEPS FORWARD EAGERLY

BUT HELP CANNOT ARRIVE IN TIME, FOR SAGAM'S ENTIRE TRIBE HAS FILLED A LAKE OF OIL ABOVE THE TRAPPED ROCKET, READY TO LOOSE A FIERY FLOOD ON FLASH AND ADORA
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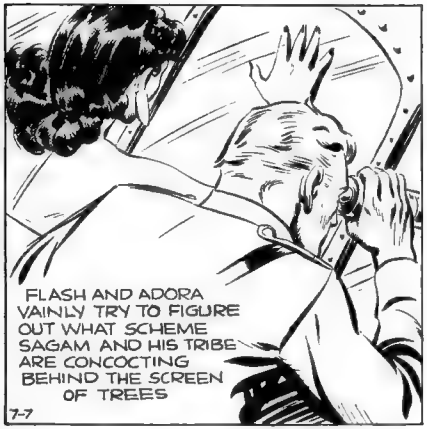
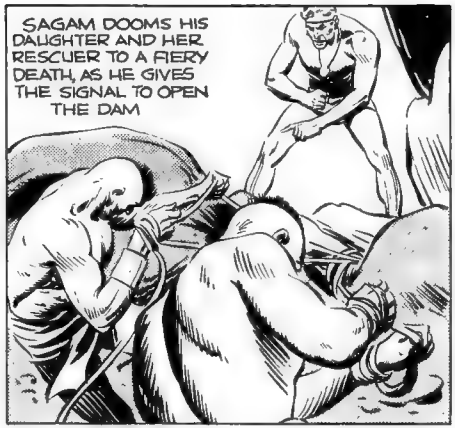
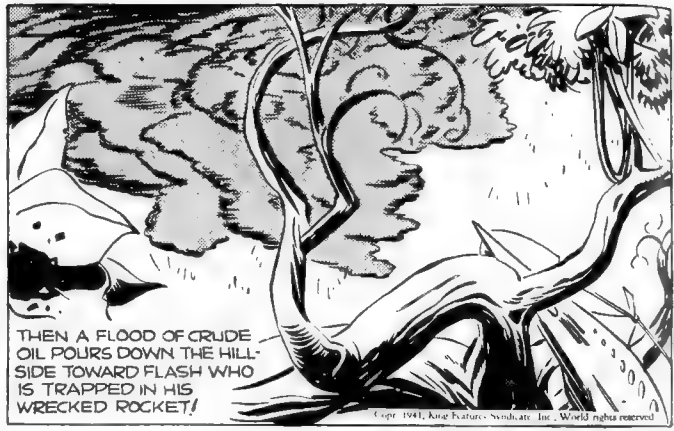

FLASH AND ADORA VAINLY TRY TO FIGURE OUT WHAT SCHEME SAGAM AND HIS TRIBE ARE CONCOCTING BEHIND THE SCREEN OF TREES
7-7


SAGAM DOOMS HIS DAUGHTER AND HER RESCUER TO A FIERY DEATH, AS HE GIVES THE SIGNAL TO OPEN THE DAM


THEN A FLOOD OF CRUDE OIL POURS DOWN THE HILL-SIDE TOWARD FLASH WHO IS TRAPPED IN HIS WRECKED ROCKET!
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SAGAM STANDS READY TO SET FIRE TO THE FLOOD OF OIL WHEN IT REACHES THE "SKY-BIRD", FLASH'S WRECKED ROCKET
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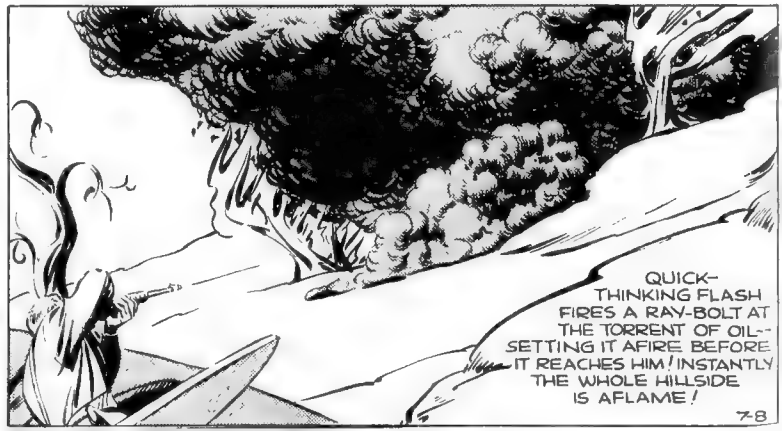
BUT FLASH IS ALERTLY WATCHING FOR A NEW TRICK BY THE WILY SAGAM--AND SEES THE MENACING BLACK STREAM POURING DOWN THE HILLSIDE


QUICK-THINKING FLASH FIRES A RAY-BOLT AT THE TORRENT OF OIL--SETTING IT AFIRE BEFORE IT REACHES HIM! INSTANTLY THE WHOLE HILLSIDE IS AFLAME!
7-8

FLASH SNATCHES ADORA FROM THE FATAL SHELTER OF THE WRECKED ROCKET. "COME ON, GIRL, FOLLOW ME--THIS PLACE IS GETTING TOO HOT FOR US!"

SAGAM'S RUTHLESS PLAN HAS BACK-FIRED. INSTEAD OF ROASTING FLASH AND ADORA, HE HAS SET FIRE TO THE FOREST AND GIVEN THEM A CHANCE TO RUN FOR THEIR LIVES, AHEAD OF THE BLAZING STREAM
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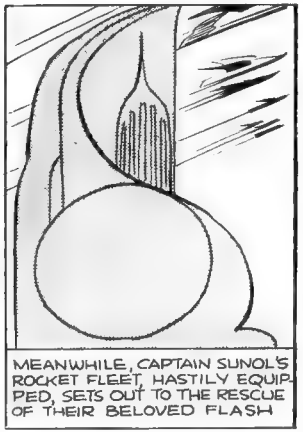
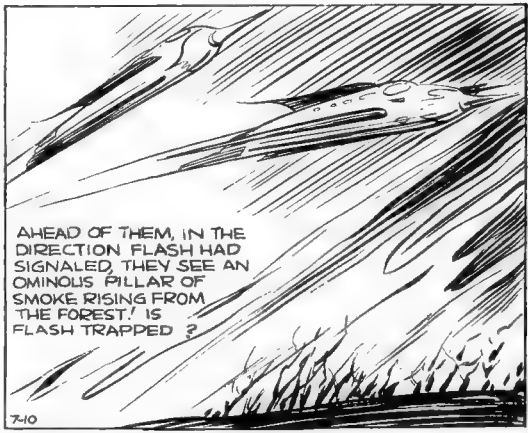
7-9

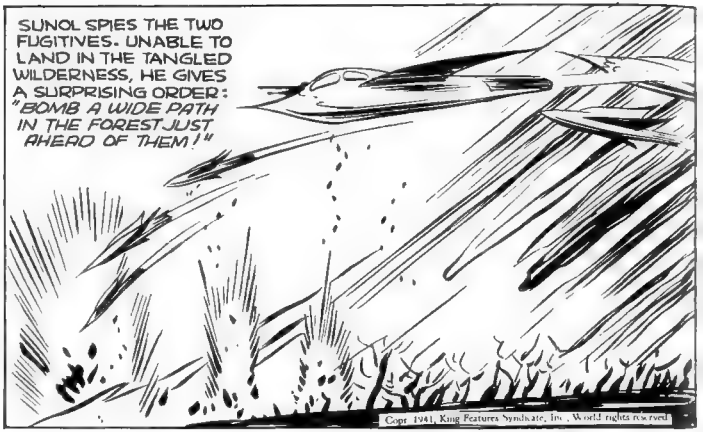
FOREST FIRE! FRIEND AND FOE ALIKE FLEE THEIR COMMON ENEMY, LOOSED BY THE HATE-CRAZED SAGAM


MEANWHILE, CAPTAIN SUNOL'S ROCKET FLEET, HASTILY EQUIPPED, SETS OUT TO THE RESCUE OF THEIR BELOVED FLASH


AHEAD OF THEM, IN THE DIRECTION FLASH HAD SIGNALED, THEY SEE AN OMINOUS PILLAR OF SMOKE RISING FROM THE FOREST! IS FLASH TRAPPED?
7-10

TRYING TO ESCAPE THE FOREST FIRE, ADORA GIVES UP THE UNEQUAL RACE. "GO ON, FLASH DEAR, SAVE YOURSELF!" SHE GASPS.
7-11

CALLING ON HIS LAST RESERVES OF STRENGTH, FLASH PICKS UP THE WORN-OUT GIRL


SUNOL SPIES THE TWO FUGITIVES. UNABLE TO LAND IN THE TANGLED WILDERNESS, HE GIVES A SURPRISING ORDER: "BOMB A WIDE PATH IN THE FOREST JUST AHEAD OF THEM!"
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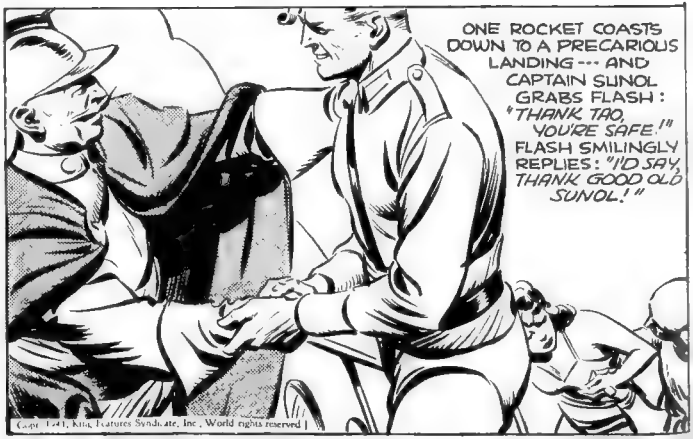
THE UNEXPECTED ROAR OF BOMBS TERRIFIES ADORA, AS ONE LAST BLOW, BUT FLASH QUICKLY REALIZES SUNOL'S PLAN. "HE'S BLASTING A FIRE-BREAK FOR US!"

STAGGERING ACROSS THE MAN-MADE DESOLATION, FLASH AND ADORA CHEAT THE FIRE
7-12


ONE ROCKET COASTS DOWN TO A PRECARIOUS LANDING --- AND CAPTAIN SUNOL GRABS FLASH: "THANK TAO, YOU'RE SAFE!" FLASH SMILINGLY REPLIES: "I'D SAY, THANK GOOD OLD SUNOL!"
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7-14
THE ROCKET ZOOMS UP ON ITS ROTORS FROM THE FIRE-SWEPT LANDING-FIELD.

CAPTAIN SUNOL GIVES FLASH AND ADORA REVIVING VITA-PILLS AND REMARKS: "WE'LL BE SAFE IN FREEPORT VERY SOON." BUT FLASH SAYS: "NO! THIS IS OUR PERFECT CHANCE TO CATCH SAGAM'S WHOLE TRIBE"

BY FLASH'S ORDERS THE ROCKET FLEET SWOOPS AHEAD OF THE FOREST FIRE, SEARCHING FOR THE MAIN FORCE OF THE FLEEING SAVAGES

SAGAM'S WARRIORS BREAK COVER TO SWIM A WIDE RIVER THAT WILL SAVE THEM FROM THE FOREST FIRE... BUT FLASH'S SCOUT ROCKETS INSTANTLY SPOT THEM.
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"THERE THEY ARE! SHALL WE DIVE-GUN THEM?" SUNOL ASKS FLASH. ADORA WEEPS AT THE FATE OF THE TRIBE, WHO, CRUEL THOUGH THEY HAVE BEEN TO HER, ARE STILL HER PEOPLE
7-15

FLASH, EVER GENEROUS, REFUSES TO GIVE THE ORDER THAT WILL WIPE OUT HIS ENEMIES- "I HAVE A PLAN. WE'LL ENCIRCLE THEM WITH OUR ROCKETS, AND THEN...."

CIRCLING OVER SAGAM'S WAR PARTY, FLASH RADIO-'PHONES ORDERS TO HIS ROCKET-FLEET: "PARACHUTE SQUADS, PREPARE TO LAND!"

IN A WIDE ARC AROUND THE TRAPPED SAVAGES, A SNOW-STORM OF PARACHUTE TROOPS SWEEPS DOWN ON THE FOREST
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THE COMMANDER OF THE ATTACKING FORCE TAKES OFF.... GIVING ORDERS IN HIS "WALKIE-TALKIE" MODULATION 'PHONE IN MID-AIR
7-16

LEADING HIS PARACHUTE SQUAD INTO ACTION AGAINST SAGAM'S SAVAGES, FLASH DROPS DOWN INTO THE FOREST
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CAUGHT IN THE TREES, FLASH UNZIPS HIS PARACHUTE AND LANDS WITHOUT DAMAGE ON THE SPECIAL LANDING-COILS ON HIS BOOTS

IN CONSTANT TOUCH WITH HIS ENTIRE FORCE BY MODULATION-PHONE, FLASH DRAWS THE NET TIGHT AROUND SAGAM'S TRAPPED WAR PARTY
7-17

SAGAM'S TRAPPED SAVAGES PREPARE TO SELL THEIR LIVES DEARLY
SURROUNDING THE TRIBE, FLASH ORDERS: "FIRE!" BUT TO THE WARRIORS SHOCKED AMAZEMENT, INSTEAD OF HAVING TO DODGE HIT-OR-MISS RAY-BOLTS, THEY ARE WRAPPED IN A SHEET OF PARALYZING ELECTRIC FORCE.
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BEHIND A SCREEN OF PAINLESS, BUT PARALYZING, RAYS, FLASH'S FORCES SWEEP THE ENEMY AMBUSH INTO OBLIVION--ALL BUT CHIEF SAGAM WHO, LYING BELOW THE LINE OF FIRE, PLAYS 'POSSUM, WITH MURDER IN IN HIS HEART—
7-18
SAGAM PLAYS DEAD UNTIL FLASH PASSES, MOPPING UP THE SAVAGES WITH THE MERCIFUL PARALYZO-RAYS
TREMBLING WITH HIS HATRED, SAGAM MAKES ONE FAINT SOUND, AS HE STARTS TO SINK, HIS WAR-AXE IN FLASH'S BRAIN, FLASH WHIRLS FASTER THAN SAGAM CAN MOVE
FLASH'S ARMY ROUNDS UP THEIR CAPTIVES, TYING THEM SECURELY FOR THE TIME THEY REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS. FLASH REASSURES ADORA: "YOUR FATHER GOT A HEAVIER CHARGE THAN HIS MEN, BUT WE'LL PULL HIM THROUGH"
7-19

FLASH'S TROOP-CARRIERS ROCKET BACK TO FREEPORT WITH SAGAM'S CAPTURED WARRIORS
7-21

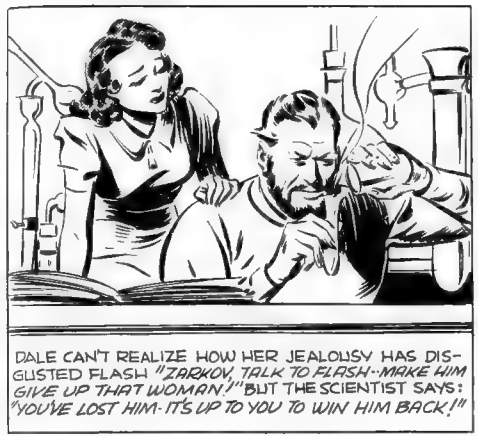
FOR ADORA'S SAKE, FLASH MAKES EVERY EFFORT TO SAVE HER FATHER'S LIFE, THOUGH SAGAM'S MURDEROUS PAROLE-BREAKING TREACHERY HAS CAUSED THE WHOLE WAR

AS SAGAM IS RUSHED TO THE HOSPITAL, FLASH DOES NOT SEE DALE WATCHING HIM, AS HE COMFORTS ADORA....

"WE'VE NEUTRALIZED THE PARALYZO-RAYS. SAGAM WILL LIVE," ZARKOV PROMISES— IN HER RELIEF, ADORA SAYS: "YOU SAVED MY FATHER! OH, FLASH, YOU'RE SO WONDERFUL!"
7-22

FLASH LEAVES ADORA WITH HER FATHER. WEARY FROM HIS LONG ORDEAL, HE WALKS OUT OF THE SICKROOM....TO BE MET BY A JEALOUS, HURT WOMAN.
"YOU HAVEN'T EVEN SPOKEN TO ME!" DALE COMPLAINS

"I DON'T REALLY WANT TO SPEAK TO YOU," FLASH SAYS COOLLY. "ALL THIS IS YOUR FAULT, FOR DRIVING THAT POOR GIRL OUT OF THE CITY, AFTER SHE SAVED MY LIFE!"



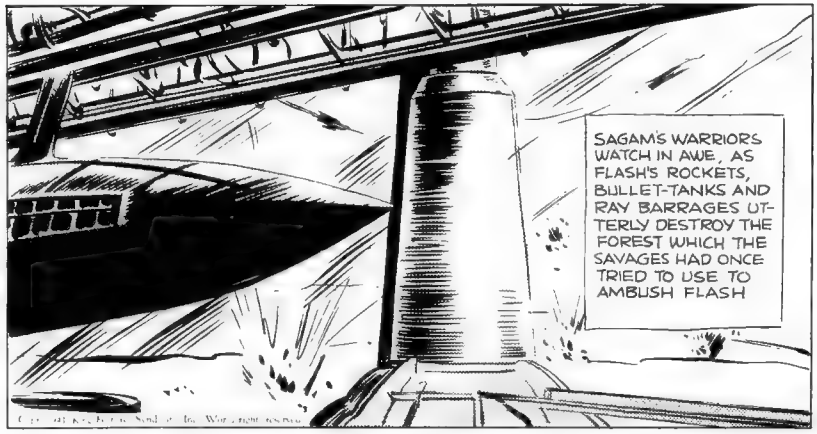
DALE CAN'T REALIZE HOW HER JEALOUSY HAS DISGUSTED FLASH "ZARKOV, TALK TO FLASH--MAKE HIM GIVE UP THAT WOMAN!" BUT THE SCIENTIST SAYS: "YOU'VE LOST HIM-IT'S UP TO YOU TO WIN HIM BACK!"

DALE SUGGESTS GIVING A DANCE TO CELEBRATE THE END OF THE WAR. "YES, THAT WOULD PLEASE ADORA," FLASH SAYS- DALE WORRIES. DOES HE FEEL SYMPATHY, OR LOVE FOR THE WIDOWED PRINCESS?

AS CAPTIVE KING SAGAM RECOVERS, FLASH TELLS HIM: "ALTHOUGH YOU ORDERED HER PUNISHED FOR DEFYING YOU, YOUR DAUGHTER, ADORA, SAVED YOUR LIFE!"

FLASH TELLS SAGAM HE WILL NOT BE EXECUTED FOR HIS TREACHERY-- BUT WILL BE A PRISONER TILL HE AND HIS TRIBE WILL KEEP THE PEACE. "MARCH THEM OUT, TO SEE THE WEAPONS THAT DEFEND OUR FREEDOM!" HE ORDERS
7-24

FLASH ORDERS A VICTORY PARADE OF THE MILITARY POWER OF FREELAND --- WHEN DALE LEARNS THAT ADORA WILL BE PRESENT, SHE STAYS HOME, SULKING ---
7-25


SAGAM'S WARRIORS WATCH IN AWE, AS FLASH'S ROCKETS, BULLET-TANKS AND RAY BARRAGES UTTERLY DESTROY THE FOREST WHICH THE SAVAGES HAD ONCE TRIED TO USE TO AMBUSH FLASH

BUT OLD SAGAM STUBBORNLY SAYS: "I'LL NOT LIE TO YOU AGAIN. YOU CAN KILL ME, BUT I'LL NOT MAKE PEACE WITH YOU!"

SAGAM'S WARRIORS, IMPRESSED WITH FLASH'S DEFENSE WEAPONS, LISTEN WHEN HE TELLS THEM: "I WANT PEACE AND FREEDOM. WILL YOU STOP ATTACKING ME OR MUST I HOLD YOU PRISONERS OF WAR?
7-26
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AS THE CAPTIVE WARRIORS CHEER FLASH AND FREEDOM, THE OLD MEDICINE-MAN STEPS UP: "I HAVE A SECRET TO TELL YOU, FLASH" SAGAM CRIES: "NO! BE STILL!"

"ADORA'S HUSBAND, REGON, IS ALIVE AND A PRISONER IN THE CAVES" BABBLES THE MEDICINE-MAN. FLASH PROMISES: "I'LL FIND HIM FOR YOU, ADORA"

WHEN THE MEDICINE-MAN, TOTIM, REVEALS THAT ADORA'S HUSBAND STILL LIVES, AS A PRISONER OF KING SAGAM, THE PARALYZED OLD TYRANT SCRAMBLES FROM HIS COT AND ..
7-28
SAGAM'S OVERSTRAINED HEART GIVES WAY. ADORA CATCHES HIM AND SAYS GENTLY, "I FORGIVE YOU, FATHER". THE DEFIANT OLD WARRIOR DIES WITH A PROUD SMILE
FLASH ORDERS ROYAL HONORS FOR HIS ENEMY. HE COMFORTS THE ORPHANED PRINCESS: "I PROMISE YOU THAT WE'LL FIND YOUR HUSBAND"----AND ADDS TO HIMSELF, "IF HE'S STILL ALIVE"
FLASH ASSEMBLES A FLYING SQUAD TO SEARCH FOR ADORA'S HUSBAND, REGON. "YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME BEHIND," SHE PLEADS "I'D GO CRAZY, WAITING AND WORRYING!"
DALE HEARS OF THE EXPEDITION. "YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME, FLASH!" SHE GASPS. "YOU MUST CHOOSE BETWEEN ME AND THAT HUSSY"
7-29
"IF YOU LEAVE ME NOW, I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN," DALE SAYS, ANGRY AT HER UNREASONABLE JEALOUSY. FLASH REPLIES, "I WOULDN'T WANT TO SEE YOU ACTING LIKE THIS AGAIN!"

ADORA APOLOGIZES. "I DIDN'T WANT TO MAKE YOU AND DALE QUARREL"—BUT MAN-LIKE, FLASH SAYS, "SHE NEEDED A LESSON. SHE'LL BE ALL RIGHT WHEN SHE THINKS IT OVER'
7-30

BUT DALE, THINKING OVER EVERY WORD AND GESTURE, IS TRAGICALLY CONVINCED THAT FLASH NO LONGER LOVES HER AND IS BEWITCHED BY THE SAVAGE PRINCESS

THE REPENTANT TOTIM GUIDES FLASH'S ROCKET TO A DISTANT MOUNTAIN CANYON. "WE CHAINED REGON TO THE CAVERN WALL, WITH PLENTY OF FOOD AND WATER-- AND WALLED-UP THE CAVE ENTRANCE!"
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FLASH USES RAY-BLASTS TO SHATTER THE CEMENT THAT BLOCKS THE CAVE ENTRANCE
7-31

EAGERLY, ALL HANDS PULL AWAY THE ROCKS THAT LOCK ADORA'S HUSBAND, REGON, IN A LIVING TOMB

HASTILY SCRAMBLING THROUGH THE NARROW OPENING, ADORA CRIES: "REGON DEAR! ANSWER ME!" BUT ONLY THE CAVERN ECHOES REPLY

BURSTING INTO REGON'S CAVE-PRISON, FLASH LIGHTS THE GLOOMY PLACE WITH A POWERFUL RAY-TORCH. THEY FIND REGON'S CHAINS EMPTY!

FLASH'S KEEN EYES DISCOVER THE TRUTH. "REGON FILED THROUGH HIS CHAINS WITH THESE SHARP ROCKS .... AND WENT DEEPER INTO THE CAVE!"
8-1
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FLASH LEADS THE WAY INTO THE UNEXPLORED TUNNELS, AS ADORA MURMURS, "OH, MY POOR REGON --- DO YOU SUPPOSE HE'S LOST SOMEWHERE IN THESE TERRIBLE, ENDLESS CAVERNS?"

AS THEY VENTURE DEEPER INTO THE UNKNOWN CAVERNS, FLASH AND ADORA SHOUT. "REGON! WHERE YOU"? BUT THE ECHOES MOCK THEM

"LOOK! SIGNS OF A STRUGGLE!" FLASH SHOUTS. THEN TOTIM GASPS: "THAT BROKEN SWORD! REGON HAD NO SWORD. THERE ARE OTHER HUMANS IN THESE CAVES!"

AND THOSE OTHER HUMANS ARE HOSTILE--THE ROCK-MEN WATCH FROM HIDDEN TUNNELS, AS FLASH'S LITTLE PARTY GETS DEEPER INTO THE TRAP!
8-2
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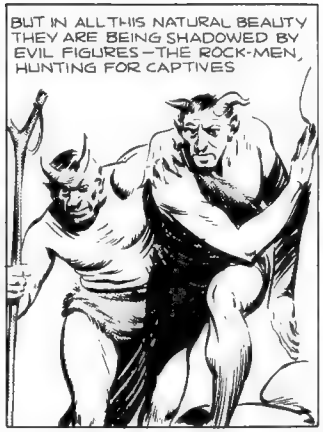
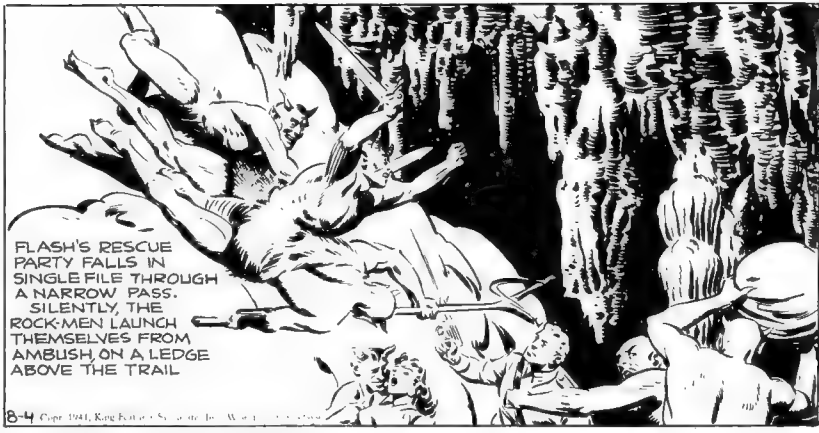
MARCHING DEEP INTO THE ENDLESS CAVERNS AFTER ADORA'S LOST HUSBAND, REGON, FLASH MARVELS AT THE SIGHT OF THE RADIO-ACTIVE ROCKS


BUT IN ALL THIS NATURAL BEAUTY THEY ARE BEING SHADOWED BY EVIL FIGURES—THE ROCK-MEN, HUNTING FOR CAPTIVES


FLASH'S RESCUE PARTY FALLS IN SINGLE FILE THROUGH A NARROW PASS. SILENTLY, THE ROCK-MEN LAUNCH THEMSELVES FROM AMBUSH, ON A LEDGE ABOVE THE TRAIL
8-4

TRAPPED BY A SURPRISE ATTACK OF THE HIDDEN ROCK-MEN, FLASH'S PARTY FALLS VICTIM; BUT FLASH FIGHTS ON.
SINGLE-HANDED, HE IS TURNING DEFEAT INTO VICTORY.

TO SAVE ADORA FROM HER CAPTOR, FLASH HAS TO LEAVE HIS REAR UNGUARDED--

A LUCKY HIT WITH A HUGE STONE STAGGERS THE GALLANT WARRIOR--AND A HORDE OF ROCK-MEN SWARM ONTO FLASH'S FALLEN BODY.
8-5

FLASH FIGHTS THE SAVAGE ROCK-MEN WITH SUPER-HUMAN DESPERATION, UNTIL HE SEES THAT FURTHER RESISTANCE WILL ENDANGER ADORA'S SAFETY ~~~
8-6

THE ROCK-MEN LEAD THEIR CAPTIVES INTO THE CAVERNS. UNDAUNTED FLASH SAYS: "CHIN UP, ADORA!"

TO HIS AMAZEMENT THEY ARE MARCHED INTO A RADIUM-LIGHTED THRONE CAVE WHERE A STRANGE, SQUAT FIGURE OF A MAN CROAKS: "HA, ROCK-MEN... WHAT NEW CREATURES HAVE WANDERED INTO THE ROCK-SPIDER'S WEB?"

FEARLESSLY FLASH FACES THEIR MIS-SHAPEN, EVIL-LOOKING CAPTOR: "I CAME IN SEARCH OF THE PRINCESS ADORA'S LOST HUSBAND, REGON~~~

AT HIS WORDS, A HUDDLED FIGURE SCURRIES OUT OF THE CAVE SHADOWS—THE PITIABLE BROKEN WRECK OF THE ONCE PROUD SAVAGE WARRIOR, REGON. "ADORA," HE MOANS.
8-7

"BACK TO YOUR KENNEL, SLAVE, OR YOU'LL TASTE THE ROCK-SPIDER'S STING AGAIN!" CROAKS THE CRUEL MASTER OF THE CAVES AND REGON SHRINKS AWAY, AS IF FROM A FIEND.
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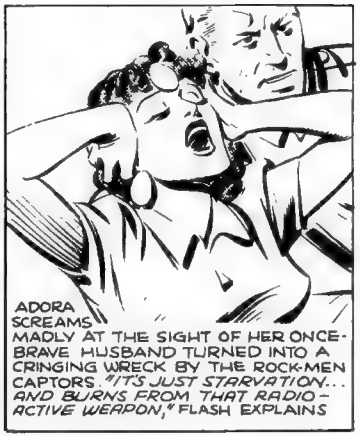
ADORA SCREAMS MADLY AT THE SIGHT OF HER ONCE-BRAVE HUSBAND TURNED INTO A CRINGING WRECK BY THE ROCK-MEN CAPTORS. "IT'S JUST STARVATION... AND BURNS FROM THAT RADIO-ACTIVE WEAPON," FLASH EXPLAINS

THE ROCK-SPIDER SNARLS, "YOU MOCK AT MY MAGIC-SCEPTER I'LL SHOW YOU..." BUT FLASH ANSWERS COOLLY, "MY WEAPONS ARE FAR BETTER MAGIC, CAVE-MAN!"
8-8
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FLASH COUNTS CORRECTLY ON THE ROCK-KING'S CURIOSITY AND WARPED INTELLIGENCE. THE ROCK-MEN HAND HIM FLASH'S CAPTURED RAY-PISTOL, BUT HE CANNOT WORK IT, WITH THE SAFETY-CATCH ON. "ONLY I CAN WORK MY MAGIC," FLASH BLUFFS.

FLASH'S BLUFF TO REGAIN HIS RAY-PISTOL FAILS TO TRICK THE ROCK-SPIDER'S SHREWD, BUT WARPED, INTELLIGENCE. "BACK--OR I BURN YOU!" HE SNARLS.

BUT THE KING OF THE ROCK-MEN IS TORMENTED WITH THE DESIRE TO MASTER THIS STRANGE NEW WEAPON..... "COME HERE, GIRL-SLAVE" HE COMMANDS

SHIELDING HIMSELF WITH THE FRIGHTENED PRINCESS ADORA, HE TOSSES THE RAY-GUN TO FLASH, CROAKING TRIUMPHANTLY, "SHOW ME HOW YOUR MAGIC WORKS. ONE FALSE MOVE AND I'LL KILL THE GIRL!"
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8-9

THE KING OF THE ROCK-MEN USES ADORA AS A HOSTAGE TO GET FLASH TO REVEAL THE SECRETS OF HIS RAY-PISTOL. "TEACH ME YOUR MAGIC OR I KILL"

WATCHING HIS OPPORTUNITY, BUT CAREFUL TO MAKE NO SUDDEN MOVE THAT MIGHT ENDANGER ADORA, FLASH SAYS: "YOUR MAGIC MUST TOUCH-I CAN STRIKE FROM FAR!

AWING THE ROCK-MEN WITH HIS RAY-WEAPON'S POWER, FLASH TRIES TO PERSUADE THEIR MASTER: "NOW, WILL YOU SET US FREE AND BE OUR FRIEND?"
BUT THE EVIL GENIUS OF THE CAVERNS SNARLS: "NO, DROP YOUR WEAPON OR THE GIRL DIES!"
8-11

ADORA TRIES TO SACRIFICE HERSELF TO FLASH AND HER HUSBAND, REGON, BY GRABBING THEIR CAPTOR'S RADIO-ACTIVE WEAPON. "QUICK, FLASH, SHOOT-NEVER MIND MY DANGER!"

UNABLE TO BLAST THE ROCK-SPIDER FOR FEAR OF KILLING ADORA, FLASH TURNS HIS RAY-PISTOL'S POWER TO A MERELY STUNNING FORCE AND AIMS WITH UTMOST CARE.

AS THE ROCK-KING AND ADORA FALL IN A DAZE, FLASH BLASTS FULL-FORCE AT THE CAVERN ROOF TO COW THE HOSTILE ROCK-MEN: "DOWN, YOU RATS! STAND BACK OR I'LL SHOOT YOU!"
8-12

FLASH HOLDS THE ROCK-MEN AT BAY. "REGON!" HE CALLS "YOU'RE SAFE NOW, MAN COME HELP ADORA!"

BROKEN BY STARVATION AND CAPTIVITY, REGON IS SO SUSPICIOUS THAT FLASH FAIRLY HAS TO FORCE HIM TO HELP REVIVE ADORA--

AT LAST FLASH IS REWARDED BY SIGNS OF ADORA'S RETURNING CONSCIOUSNESS, BUT TO HIS DISMAY--AND REGON'S--HER FIRST WORDS ARE "OH, FLASH, FLASH, I KNEW YOU'D SAVE ME!"
8-13
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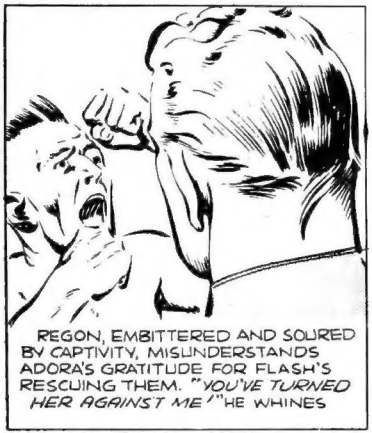
REGON, EMBITTERED AND SOURED BY CAPTIVITY, MISUNDERSTANDS ADORA'S GRATITUDE FOR FLASH'S RESCUING THEM. "YOU'VE TURNED HER AGAINST ME!" HE WHINES

FLASH SLAPS HIM SHARPLY "SNAP OUT OF IT, REGON! THIS IS NO TIME FOR NONSENSE! BE A MAN--IT'S UP TO US TO GET HER OUT OF HERE SAFELY"

ONLY THE THREAT OF FLASH'S MYSTERIOUS RAY-PISTOL SCARES THE ROCK-MEN INTO OBEDIENCE. FLASH ORDERS THEM TO PICK UP THEIR CHIEF THE PARALYZED "ROCK SPIDER," AND MARCH OUT OF THE MAZE OF CAVERNS
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8-14

AS THEY NEAR THE EXIT FROM THE CAVERNS TO THE OPEN AIR, THE ROCK-MEN SUDDENLY TURN ON FLASH, TRYING TO RESCUE THEIR LEADER, THE "ROCK-SPIDER"

DEFYING THE UNEXPECTED BARRAGE OF STONES, FLASH SWIFTLY ROUTS THE REBELLIOUS ROCK-MEN WITH HIS RAY-FIRE. REGON, DESPITE HIS WEAKNESS, PROTECTS ADORA WITH HIS BODY FROM THE MISSILES.
8-15
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FLASH LEADS THE WAY OUT OF THE ENDLESS CAVERNS. "LOOK, REGON, DAYLIGHT AT LAST!" ADORA CRIES AND REGON REPLIES: "I FEEL BETTER ALREADY"

"WHY BRING THE ROCK-KING ALONG?" ADORA WONDERS
FLASH ANSWERS "HE'LL GUIDE ME WHEN I COME BACK—THOSE CAVES ARE FULL OF THE RADIUM WE NEED FOR OUR RAY-WEAPONS AND MACHINES"
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8-16

OFF FOR FREEPORT, FLASH FINDS AN OPPORTUNITY TO WHISPER TO ADORA, "DON'T WORRY ABOUT REGON--HE'LL BE HIMSELF AGAIN AFTER BEING CURED OF HIS OVER-EXPOSURE TO RADIUM IN THE CAVES!"

IN FREEPORT HOSPITAL, FLASH HAS REGON TREATED FOR RADIUM POISONING
"YOUR HUSBAND WILL SOON BE HIMSELF AGAIN, ADORA," HE WHISPERS.

DALE'S BETTER NATURE TRIUMPHS AND SHE HUMBLES HERSELF: "FLASH, DEAR, FORGIVE ME-- I'LL TRY NEVER TO BE JEALOUS AGAIN!"
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8-18

BUT ZARKOV SUMMONS FLASH TO HIS LABORATORY: I'VE COUNTERACTED THE HEAVISIDE LAYER AND INTERCEPTED BROADCASTS FROM THE EARTH. UTMOST AMPLIFICATION MAKES THEM BARELY AUDIBLE--- LISTEN-- "DICTATORS' MECHANIZED ARMIES INVADE--- ---THREATEN THE AMERICAS -----WAR!"

"WE MUST GET BACK TO EARTH, SOMEHOW, AND HELP DEFEND FREEDOM AGAINST THE DICTATOR!" FLASH CRIES, "OUR NATIVE LAND CALLS US!"

THE SHOCKING NEWS OF A NEW WORLD WAR DRIVES FLASH TO SUPER-HUMAN EFFORTS, AS ALL FREELAND HELPS BUILD THE GREATEST OF ROCKET-SHIPS.
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FLASH WANTS TO LEAVE DALE BEHIND, IN THE SAFETY OF MONGO, BUT SHE PLEADS, "LET ME GO, --LET US LIVE OR DIE TOGETHER, DEAR-REMEMBER, FLASH, IT'S MY COUNTRY, TOO!"

THE ROCKET IS COMPLETED. ITS FIRST TEST WILL BE ITS LAST--AND FLASH USES EXTRA CARE TO SEE THAT DALE IS AS SAFE AS POSSIBLE IN THE ACCELERATION-ABSORBER FOR THE TAKE-OFF.
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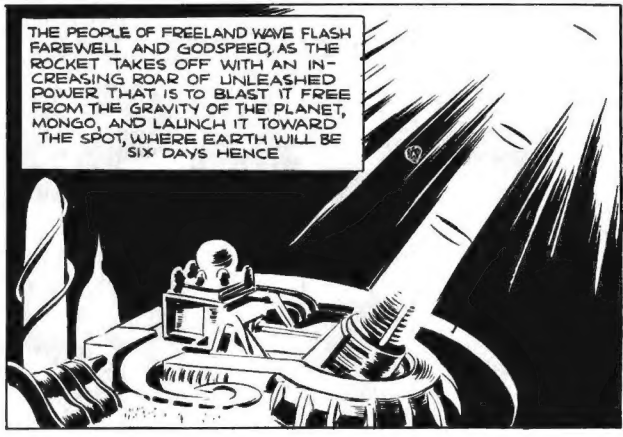
8-20


THE PEOPLE OF FREELAND WAVE FLASH FAREWELL AND GODSPEED, AS THE ROCKET TAKES OFF WITH AN INCREASING ROAR OF UNLEASHED POWER THAT IS TO BLAST IT FREE FROM THE GRAVITY OF THE PLANET, MONGO, AND LAUNCH IT TOWARD THE SPOT, WHERE EARTH WILL BE SIX DAYS HENCE

DESPITE THE GRADUALLY INCREASING ROCKET-POWER, THE TAKE-OFF STUNS AND BLACKS OUT EVERYONE BUT FLASH, WHOSE GREAT STAMINA ENABLES HIM TO GUIDE THE SPACE-SHIP.
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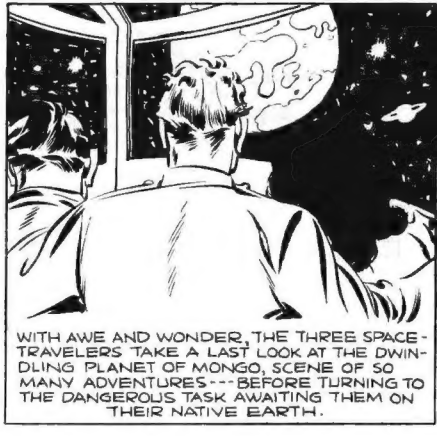
FLASH SETS THE ROCKET ROARING AT TOP SPEED ACROSS SPACE --- THEN REVIVES HIS LOYAL COMRADES
8-21


WITH AWE AND WONDER, THE THREE SPACE-TRAVELERS TAKE A LAST LOOK AT THE DWINDLING PLANET OF MONGO, SCENE OF SO MANY ADVENTURES --- BEFORE TURNING TO THE DANGEROUS TASK AWAITING THEM ON THEIR NATIVE EARTH.